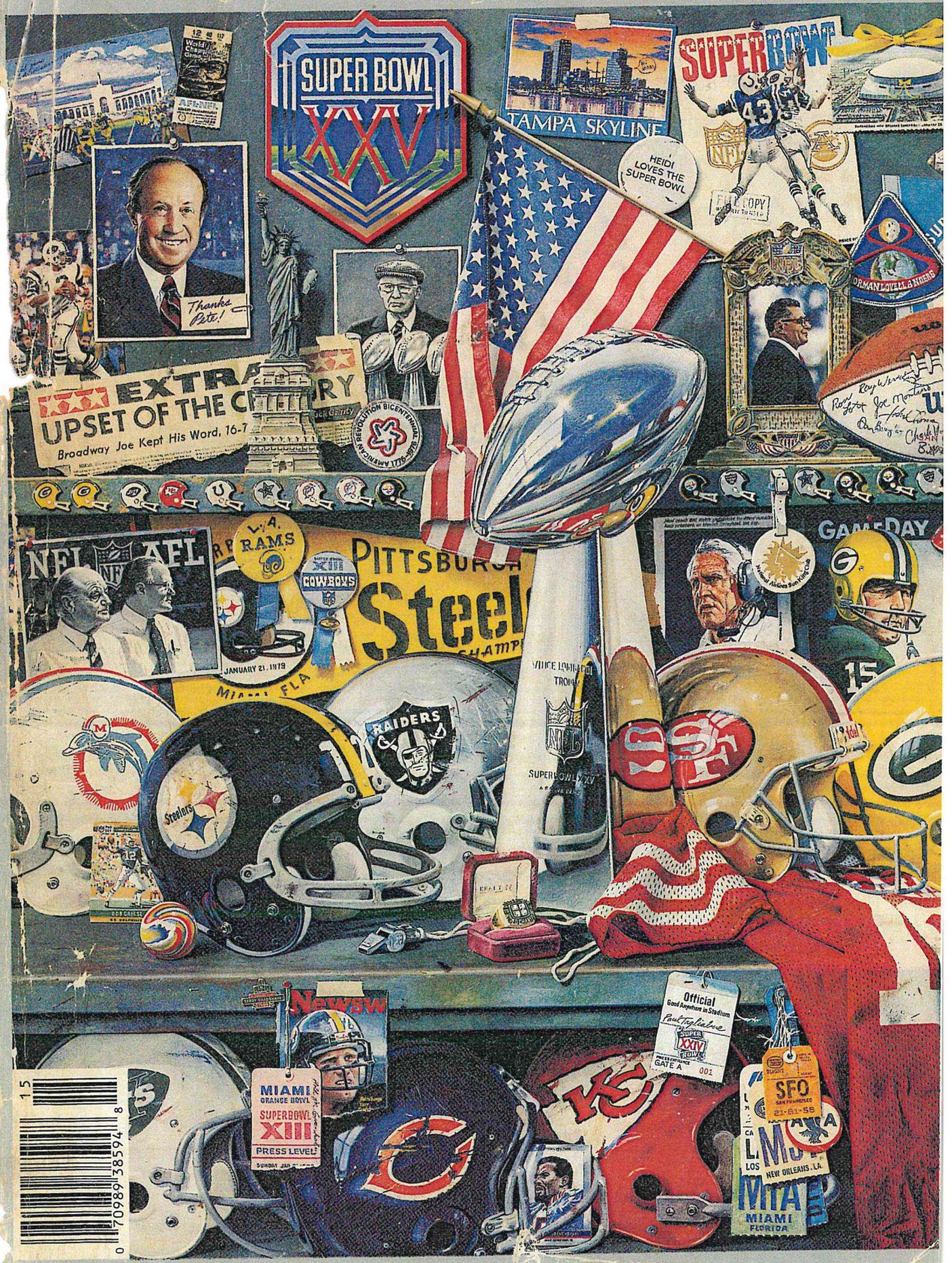
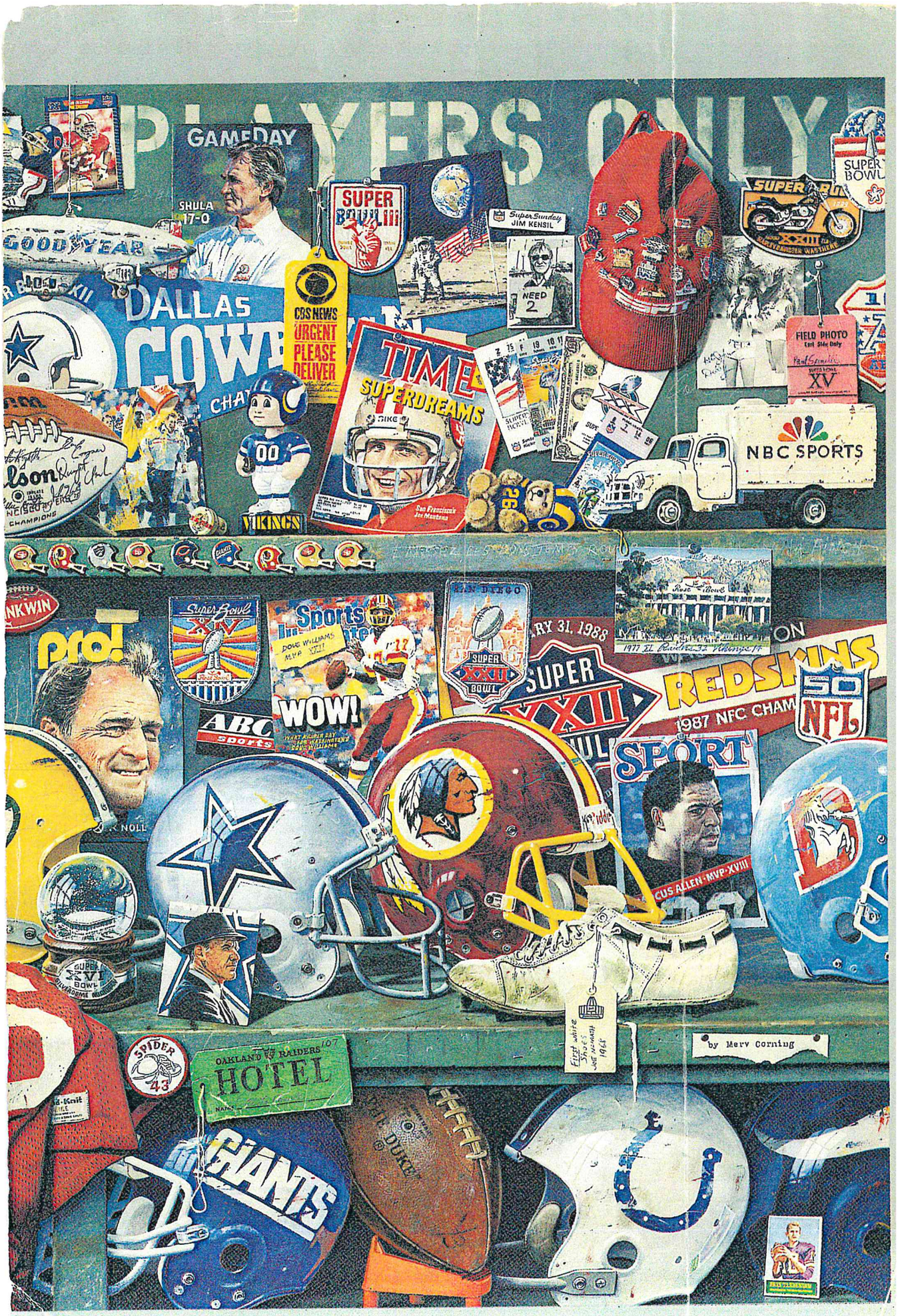
OFFICIAL SUPER BOWL XXV GAME PROGRAM • $10.00



AFC vs. NFC for the NFL Championshi[p] ... Vince Lombardi Trophy • Sunday, January 27, 1991 • 6 P.M. • Tampa Stadium • Tampa, Florida


PLAYERS ONLY
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SUPER BOWL III
Super Sunday
JIM KENSIL
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DALLAS
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CBS NEWS
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TIME
SUPERDREAMS
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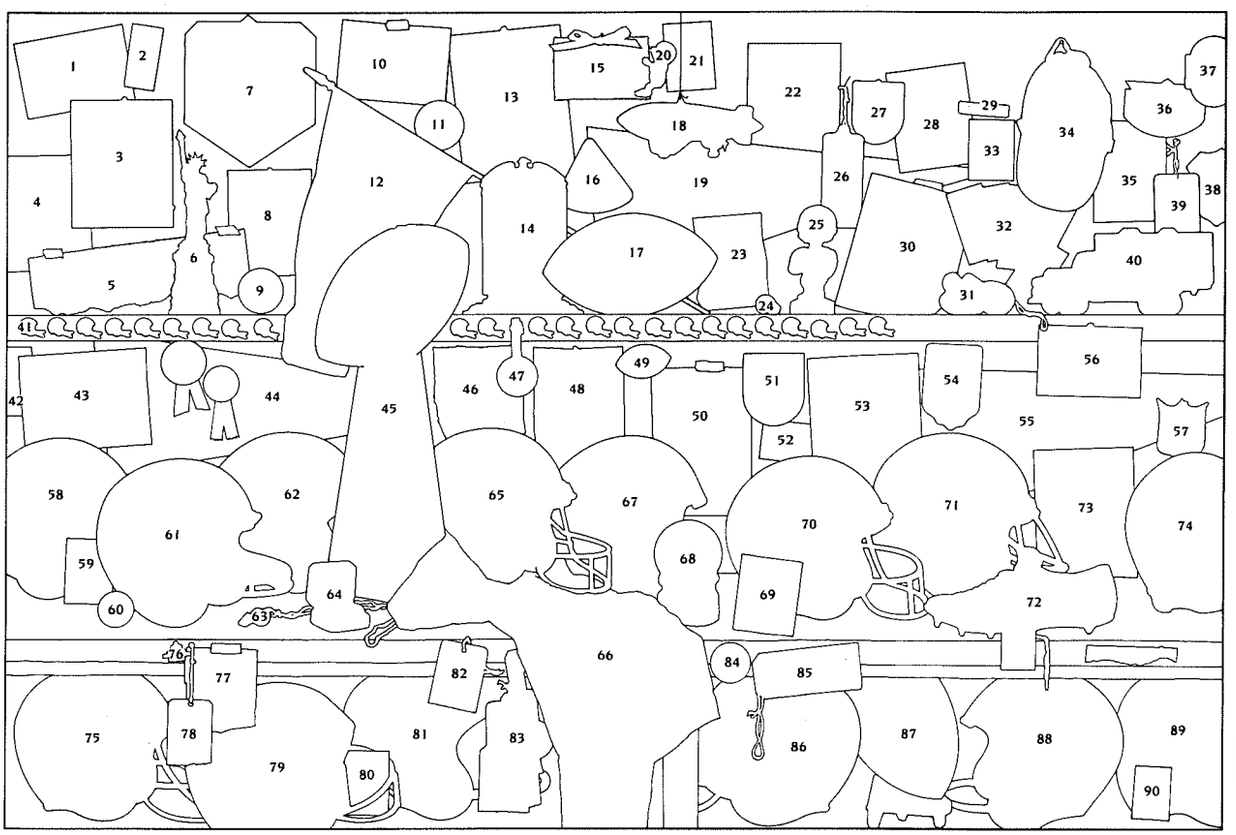
FIELD PHOTO
XV
NBC SPORTS
VIKINGS
pro!
Super Bowl XV
Sports
DOUG WILLIAMS
M.V.P. XVII
WOW!
ABC
sports
SAN DIEGO
SUPER XXII BOWL
SUPER XXII
REDSKINS
1987 NFC CHAM
NFL
SPORT
GUS ALLEN · MVP · XVIII
SUPER XVI BOWL
SPIDER
43
OAKLAND RAIDERS '07
HOTEL
GIANTS
DUKE
First white Shoes
JOE NAMATH
1965
by Merv Corning

THE COMPETITION COULDN'T IMPROVE ON IT.

SO WE DID.



SUPER BOWL XXV

Legend to the Painting by Merv Corning

1. Postcard. Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, site of the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, January 15, 1967. NFL champion Green Bay defeated AFL champion Kansas City 35-10.

2. Ticket to the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game

3. Pete Rozelle, Commissioner of the NFL, 1960-1989

4. Super Bowl III, Orange Bowl, Miami, January 12, 1969. Quarterback Joe Namath led the AFL's New York Jets to a 16-7 upset of the heavily favored NFL champion Baltimore Colts.

5. Newspaper headline heralding the Jets' victory in Super Bowl III

6. Souvenir model of the Statue of Liberty, New York. The centenary celebration was held in July, 1986.

7. Silver Anniversary patch for Super Bowl XXV at Tampa Stadium in Tampa, Florida, January 27, 1991.

8. Art Rooney, Sr., owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Rooney waited 42 years for his first championship (Super Bowl IX), then saw his team win four Super Bowls in six years (IX, X, XIII, and XIV).

9. The official United States bicentennial patch worn by Pittsburgh and Dallas players in Super Bowl X, played at the Miami Orange Bowl, January 18, 1976.

10. Postcard. Tampa, Florida, site of Super Bowls XVIII and XXV

11. Heidi button, 1968. With 1:05 remaining and the New York Jets leading the Oakland Raiders 32-29, NBC-TV switched from the game to begin screening the movie *Heidi*. As the network's switchboards lit up, the Raiders scored twice in the closing minutes to win 43-32. The Jets later beat the Raiders for the AFL title and went on to win Super Bowl III.

12. The American Flag

13. Game program cover, Super Bowl III, January 12, 1969. The first official use of the term Super Bowl, and the only Super Bowl program cover to feature the two competing teams.

14. Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, who won the first two Super Bowls. The Super Bowl trophy was named in his honor following his death at age 57 in 1970.

15. The site of Super Bowl XV, the Louisiana Superdome, was decorated with a gigantic yellow ribbon on January 25, 1981, to celebrate the release of American hostages by Iran.

16. Official NASA Apollo 8 patch, commemorating man's first orbit of the moon, December 12-27, 1968. Astronauts Frank Borman, James A. Lovell, Jr., and William A. Anders were guests at Super Bowl III in Miami, leading the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance in the pregame ceremonies.

17. Autographed 49ers' football from Super Bowl XVI, played in the Silverdome at Pontiac, Michigan, on January 24, 1982. San Francisco defeated Cincinnati 26-21.

18. Antique Goodyear airship toy

19. Dallas Cowboys' pennant from Super Bowl XII, the first game to be played in a domed stadium, at the Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, January 15, 1978. Dallas defeated Denver 27-10 before the largest TV audience in history (up to that time)—102,010,000 homes.

20. Chicago Bears' "Huddles" doll

21. 1989 NFL Pro Set trading card, featuring San Francisco 49ers running back Roger Craig

22. Miami head coach Don Shula. In 1972, he guided the Dolphins to an NFL record 17 consecutive victories, including a 14-7 victory over Washington in Super Bowl VII in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

23. New York Giants head coach Bill Parcells receives a Gatorade bath from linebacker Harry Carson, a ritual repeated throughout the 1986 season and Super Bowl XXI. The Giants defeated Denver 39-20 in the latter.

24. Champagne cork

25. Minnesota Vikings' bobble-head doll, circa 1969, the year the Vikings won the NFL championship and met the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl IV.

26. CBS-TV news tag

27. Super Bowl III embroidered patch

28. In July, 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

29. Jim Kensil "Super Sunday" pin. Kensil was the NFL's first director of public relations in 1960, and eventually rose to the role of NFL executive director before he became president of the New York Jets in 1977.

30. *Time* magazine cover featuring San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana, the first player to win MVP honors three times (Super Bowls XVI, XIX, and XXIV).

31. Los Angeles Rams' teddy bear. The Rams lost to Pittsburgh 31-19 in Super Bowl XIV, played at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California before an all-time record crowd of 103,985.

32. A group of Super Bowl tickets, which escalated in price from $12 in 1967 to $125 in 1991

33. Desperate fan (one of many) looking for tickets outside a Super Bowl stadium

34. An ESPN cap decorated with souvenir pins from many Super Bowls

35. Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders

36. Harley Davidson decal from Super Bowl XXIII. Riders on 400 motorcycles participated in the halftime show at Joe Robbie Stadium.

37. Embroidered patch for Super Bowl X

38. Ten-year AFL patch worn by the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl IV, January 11, 1970

39. A Super Bowl field photo credential, which must be worn by all sideline photographers

40. Vintage NBC Sports toy truck

41. Shelf face, left to right: enameled helmet pins of the winning Super Bowl teams, from game I thru XXIV

42. New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms, MVP of Super Bowl XXI, January 25, 1987

43. Dallas Cowboys president Tex Schramm and Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt, architects of the AFL-NFL merger, 1966

44. A Pittsburgh pennant adorned with Cowboys' and Rams' buttons, victims of the Steelers in back-to-back victories in games XIII and XIV

45. The Vince Lombardi Trophy, which is presented to each winning team. The trophy is sterling silver and is made by Tiffany's.

46. San Francisco 49ers head coach Bill Walsh, whose teams won three Super Bowl titles in his 10 years with the club

47. A National Airlines luggage tag from the 1970s

48. Green Bay quarterback Bart Starr, MVP of the first two Super Bowls

49. "Think Win" novelty pin

50. Pittsburgh Steelers head coach Chuck Noll, the only man to have coached four Super Bowl champions

51. Embroidered patch for Super Bowl XIV

52. ABC Sports label

53. *Sports Illustrated* cover featuring Washington Redskins quarterback Doug Williams, MVP of Super Bowl XXII, played in San Diego on January 31, 1988. The Redskins defeated Denver 42-10.

54. Embroidered patch for Super Bowl XXII

55. Washington Redskins' pennant

56. Postcard, Pasadena Rose Bowl. On January 9, 1977, Oakland defeated Minnesota 32-14 in the first Super Bowl played in the Rose Bowl. A then-record crowd of 103,438 attended Super Bowl XI.

57. Fiftieth anniversary patch, worn by all players on the 16 teams of the National Football League during the 1969 season.

58. Miami Dolphins helmet (Super Bowls VI, VII, VIII, XVII, XIX)

59. 1990 Pro Set Hall of Fame card of Miami quarterback Bob Griese

60. A 1960s toy, called the Super Ball. Lamar Hunt's daughter was playing with the ball when the name Super Bowl first occurred to Hunt as the title for the AFC-NFC World Championship Game.

61. The helmet of Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw, who led the Steelers to four Super Bowl titles in the 1970s (IX, X, XIII, XIV), and was named MVP of the last two

62. Raiders helmet. The Raiders played in four Super Bowls (II, XI, XV, XVIII), winning their last three appearances

63. An official's whistle

64. Pittsburgh Steelers Super Bowl XIV ring

65. San Francisco 49ers helmet. The 49ers have won four Super Bowls (XVI, XIX, XXIII, XXIV)

66. The jersey of 49ers quarterback Joe Montana

67. Green Bay Packers helmet. Head coach Vince Lombardi's teams won the first two Super Bowls.

68. Paperweight, souvenir of Super Bowl XVI, played at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan, January 24, 1982. San Francisco defeated Cincinnati 26-21.

69. Dallas Cowboys head coach Tom Landry, who led his teams to Super Bowls V, VI, X, XII, and XIII, winning games VI and XII

70. Dallas Cowboys helmet worn by linebacker Chuck Howley in Super Bowl V. Howley is the only player from a losing team to be named MVP. Baltimore defeated Dallas 16-13.

71. Washington Redskins helmet worn by fullback John Riggins, MVP of Super Bowl XVII, played in the Rose Bowl on January 30, 1983. Washington defeated Miami 27-17.

72. One of the white shoes worn by New York Jets quarterback Joe Namath during the 1968 season, a period when all players wore black shoes. Namath wore the shoes as the Jets upset Baltimore in Super Bowl III, January 12, 1969.

73. Los Angeles Raiders running back Marcus Allen, MVP of Super Bowl XVIII. The Raiders defeated Washington 38-9 in the first Super Bowl game played in Tampa.

74. Denver Broncos helmet. The Broncos have appeared in four Super Bowls (XII, XXI, XXII, XXIV), losing each time.

75. New York Jets helmet worn by Joe Namath in Super Bowl III

76. Pro Football Hall of Fame pin honoring Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw, who entered the Hall in 1989

77. Terry Bradshaw, MVP in Super Bowls XIII and XIV, and quarterback for four Pittsburgh Super Bowl champions in the 1970s

78. Press credential to Super Bowl XIII at the Miami Orange Bowl. Pittsburgh defeated Dallas 35-31.

79. Chicago Bears helmet. Chicago defeated New England 46-10 in Super Bowl XX, played in the Louisiana Superdome on January 26, 1986.

80. 1990 Pro Set Super Bowl XX MVP card of Chicago Bears defensive end Richard Dent.

81. Kansas City Chiefs' helmet. The Chiefs appeared in the first Super Bowl and in game IV, which they won, defeating Minnesota 23-7 on January 11, 1970, in Tulane Stadium, New Orleans.

82. Super Bowl XXIV official's credential worn by newly elected NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue at the game in New Orleans, January 28, 1990

83. A collection of airline baggage tags showing various Super Bowl site cities

84. "Spider 43" patch worn by the New York Giants during the 1986 season and at Super Bowl XXI. The patch was worn in memory of Carl (Spider) Lockhart, a former Giants' star defensive back (1965-1975) who died of cancer in 1985.

85. Oakland Raiders hotel luggage tag

86. New York Giants' helmet. The Giants won Super Bowl XXI, defeating Denver 39-20, January 25, 1987, at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

87. The Wilson "Duke" football was the official ball of the National Football League for three decades, from 1940 thru 1969.

88. Baltimore Colts' helmet. The Colts appeared in two Super Bowls in the Orange Bowl (III and V), winning the latter with a 16-13 victory over Dallas, January 17, 1971.

89. Minnesota Vikings' helmet. The Vikings dominated the NFC in the early 1970s, appearing in four Super Bowls (IV, VIII, IX, XI), but losing each game.

90. Topps football trading card featuring Minnesota Vikings quarterback Fran Tarkenton

Total number of individual items in the painting: 139.

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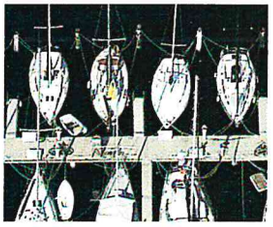

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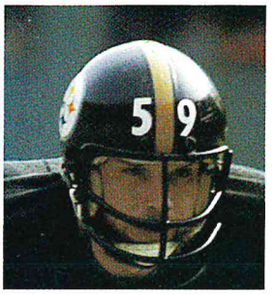

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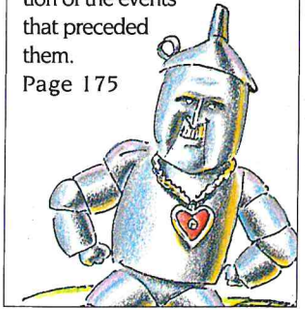

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SUPER BOWL NOW

Pregame
Halftime
Media

Rewards
Awards
Sidelights

By Jim Natal

Hot Info

Kickoff Time: 6 P.M. (EST)

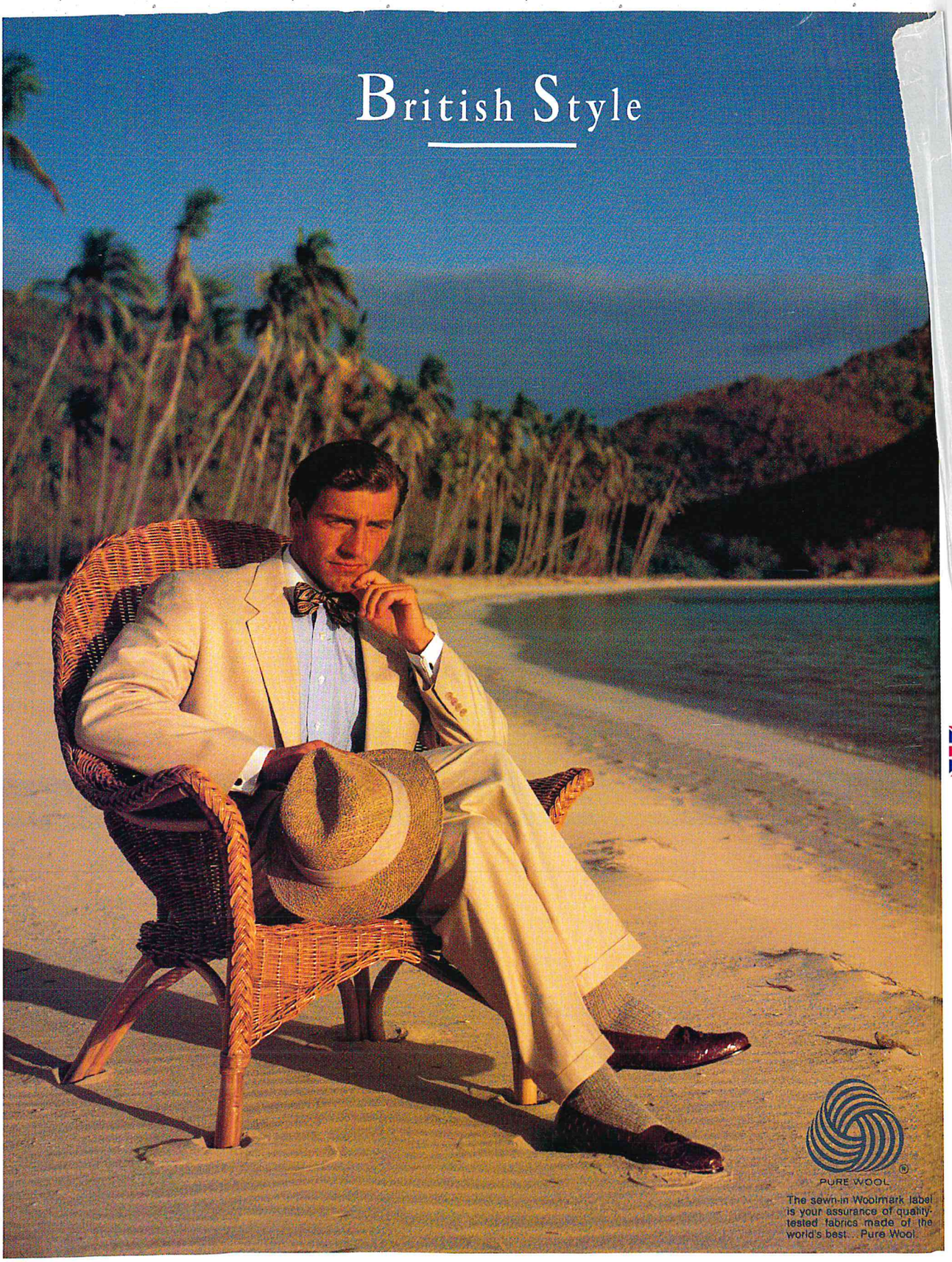
Teams: AFC Champion vs. NFC Champion for the National Football League Championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The NFC Champion will be the home team and will have the choice of wearing white or colored jerseys.

Players' Shares: Each member of the winning team will receive $36,000, each member of the losing team receives $18,000—more than $2.6 million for the personnel of the competing clubs.

Overtime: If the game is tied at the end of the regulation 60 minutes, it will continue into sudden-death overtime. The team scoring first—by safety, field goal, or touchdown—will win. The game will continue by 15-minute periods, with two-minute intermissions, until there is a winner, unlike preseason or regular-season games, in which a single 15-minute extra period is played.

Television Coverage: ABC will begin its pregame show at 4 P.M. (EST). The game telecast starts at 6 P.M.

Radio Coverage: CBS Radio's broadcast will start at 5:45 P.M.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Monday Night on Sunday Night

ABC Sports

Dierdorf, Michaels, and Gifford

ABC Sports' Monday-night NFL broadcast crew will work a day earlier than usual when it tackles the Super Bowl XXV telecast. The familiar trio of Dan Dierdorf, Frank Gifford, and Al Michaels will be in the broadcast booth at Tampa Stadium to call the game.

Leading into the live game coverage will be a two-hour pregame show, which begins at 4 P.M. (EST). The pregame telecast features an all-star lineup of its own, including Brent Musburger, Bob Griese (the winning quarterback in Super Bowls VII and VIII), Lynn Swann (the MVP of Super Bowl X), and Dick Vermeil (the head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles team that played in Super Bowl XV), plus Beth Ruyak and Jack Whitaker.

Supershow XXV

Today's pregame show celebrates the elements that have made the Super Bowl such an incredible success over the past 25 years—elaborate entertainment, outstanding football, and strong community support.

Michael Burr

Houston will sing the anthem.

The opening segment pays musical tribute to the mid-1960s, the era when the Super Bowl came into being. Up With People, which has produced four Super Bowl halftime shows, opens the sequence, followed by 1960s Motown singing stars Dennis Edwards, Eddie Kendrick, and David Ruffin, formerly of the Temptations (1989 inductees into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame). Cory Wells and Danny Hutton of the Sixties supergroup Three Dog Night come on stage for the finale, along with a cast of 500 dancers and a display of pyrotechnics.

Glen Wexler Studio

Wells and Hutton of Three Dog Night

The field then will be set for the dramatic introduction of the Silver Anniversary Super Bowl Team. Sponsored by Buick, the team was chosen by fans from among nominees selected by the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Musical accompaniment for this segment will be "This Is the NFL," performed by Jeffrey Osborne. Each of the members of the team will be escorted to center stage, while his game-action clips are shown on the Jumbotron screens.

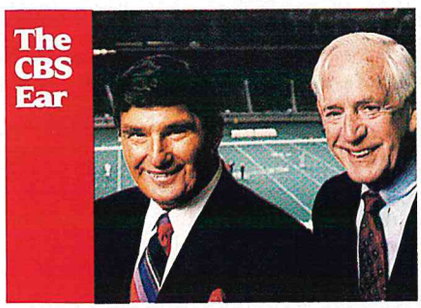
Introductions of the players from this year's Super Bowl teams will follow shortly thereafter. Once the AFC and NFC champions have taken the field, Whitney Houston will sing the National Anthem. The singing sensation is a champion in her own right: She has won 2 Grammy Awards, 11 American Music Awards, and 2 Emmy Awards, and has set a number of all-time sales marks. Houston will be accompanied by The Florida Orchestra. Under music director Jahja Ling, who shortly after his appointment to the orchestra in 1988 received a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts/Seaver Conducting Award, the Florida Orchestra is one of the largest cultural institutions in the State of Florida and one of the top 50 orchestras in the nation.

Michael Burr

Ruffin, Edwards, and Kendrick

The 30-yard-long American flag appearing during the Anthem will be made of umbrellas carried by cast members. An armed forces color guard and a 50-State flag team, representing all five service branches, also will be on hand. Punctuating the Anthem will be a spectacular stadium flyover by Air Force jets.

The CBS Ear



CBS Radio

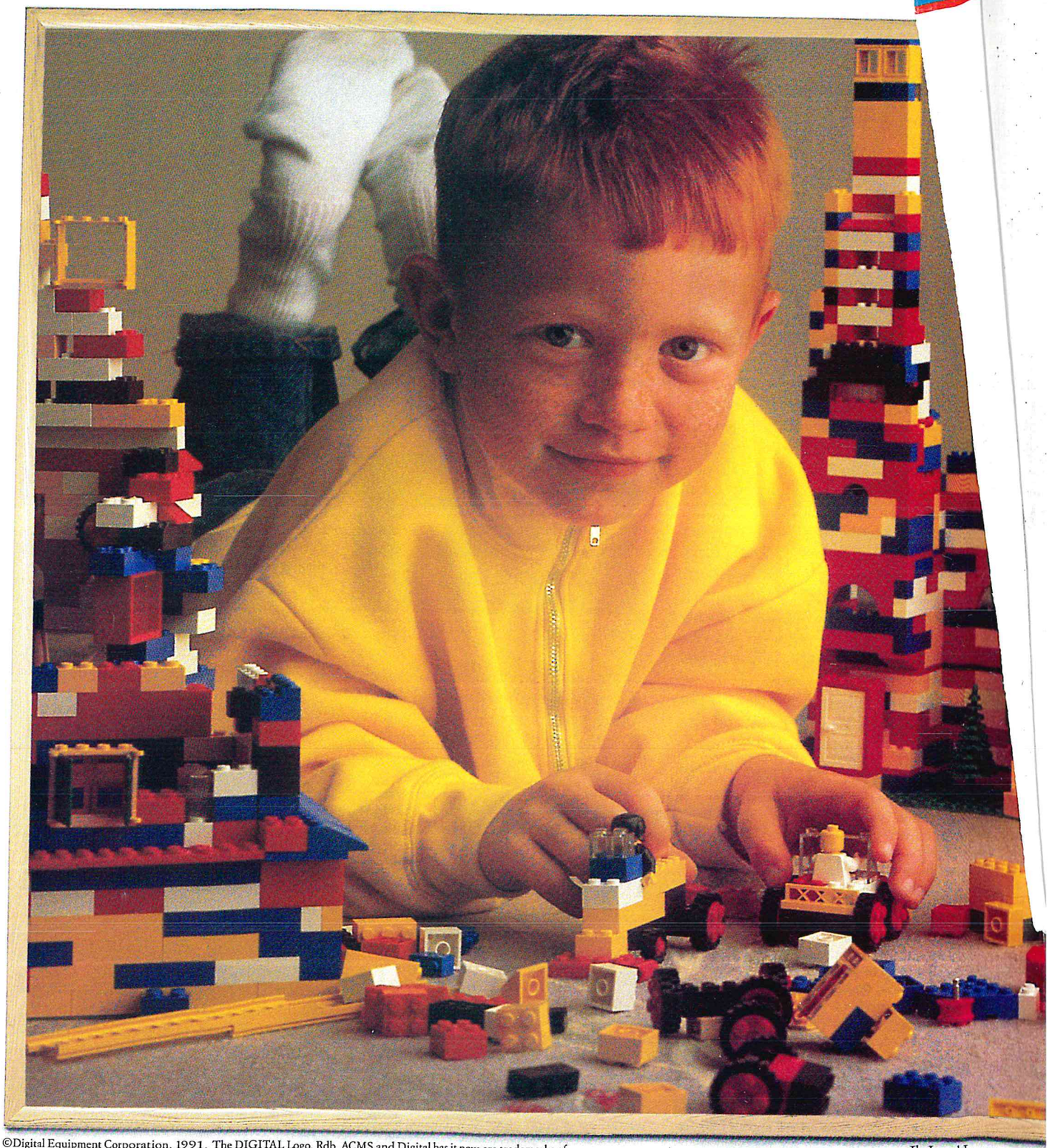
Stram (left) and Buck are familiar voices to NFL fans tuned in to CBS Radio.

CBS Radio is set to bring listeners around the world live coverage of Super Bowl XXV. The broadcast, which begins at 5:45 P.M. (EST) and will be carried by more than 315 domestic stations and more than 400 Armed Forces Radio Network outlets worldwide, features the announcing duo of Jack Buck and Hank Stram, now in their eleventh year as NFL partners for CBS radio.

Emmy Award-winning sportscasters Greg Gumbel and John Madden will anchor CBS Radio's pregame and halftime segments.

CBS Radio broadcast regular-season and postseason NFL games from 1978-1984, and has been doing so again since 1987. Additionally, Super Bowl broadcasts were heard in alternate years from 1967-1977. In this first year of a new five-year contract, the broadcast package was expanded to 33 regular-season games, all 12 postseason games, and an assortment of special NFL features, including the weekly "NFL Preview" show.

Another new phase of the network's package is the CBS Hispanic Radio Network. Launched in January, 1990, the Spanish-language sports coverage has included a number of NFL postseason games. The network also will cover Super Bowl XXV, marking the first time the Super Bowl will be heard nationally and internationally in Spanish. The Super Bowl broadcast anchors are long-time voices of the Miami Dolphins and Dallas Cowboys, Rene Giraldo and Armando Quintero. Joining them will be Los Angeles Raiders announcer Ricardo Salazar and former Los Angeles Rams voice Jessi Losada.



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Small Is Beautiful

Aptly titled, "A Small World Salute to 25 Years of the Super Bowl," today's silver anniversary halftime extravaganza features nearly 2,000 little performers who, according to Disney executive producer Ron Logan, "are some of the most talented kids I've ever seen." The all-child cast includes 200 little cheerleaders, 600 young football players, 100 referees, and more than 1,000 other children who together create a spectacle described by Disney show producer Scott Powhatan as "a bigger-than-life celebration with the smallest cast ever—in size, that is."

Adding to the excitement will be blockbuster musical guests New Kids on the Block.

To create this year's halftime show, Disney writer/director Judy Lawrence and her team of choreographers came to Tampa shortly after Christmas to begin the nearly 200 rehearsals that were required to get the different groups of kids ready for the big day. The Disney halftime staff selected the cast during auditions of more than 4,000 talented youngsters held in Tampa and Orlando last September.

As a special feature of the Super Bowl XXV halftime show, Walt Disney World will salute the great football heroes of the past 25 years, as well as the American military personnel serving in the Middle East and around the world. Two audience-participation card stunts have been designed; instructions for fans in the stands can be found in the GTE seat-cushion pouches. The first card stunt, a tribute to our men and women serving overseas, occurs about halfway through the show. It will be seen by those in the military watching the game over the Armed Forces Network, as well as by the domestic television audience. The second card stunt occurs as part of the grand finale. The show is the fourth Super Bowl halftime event produced by the Disney organization.

If you don't recognize the five young gentlemen pictured above, please consult the nearest teenage girl. The focus of near hysteria from coast to coast, New Kids on the Block—from left, Jonathan, Jordan, Joe, Danny, and Donnie—will entertain during halftime. The New Kids' latest album is entitled "No More Games."

Halftime Credits

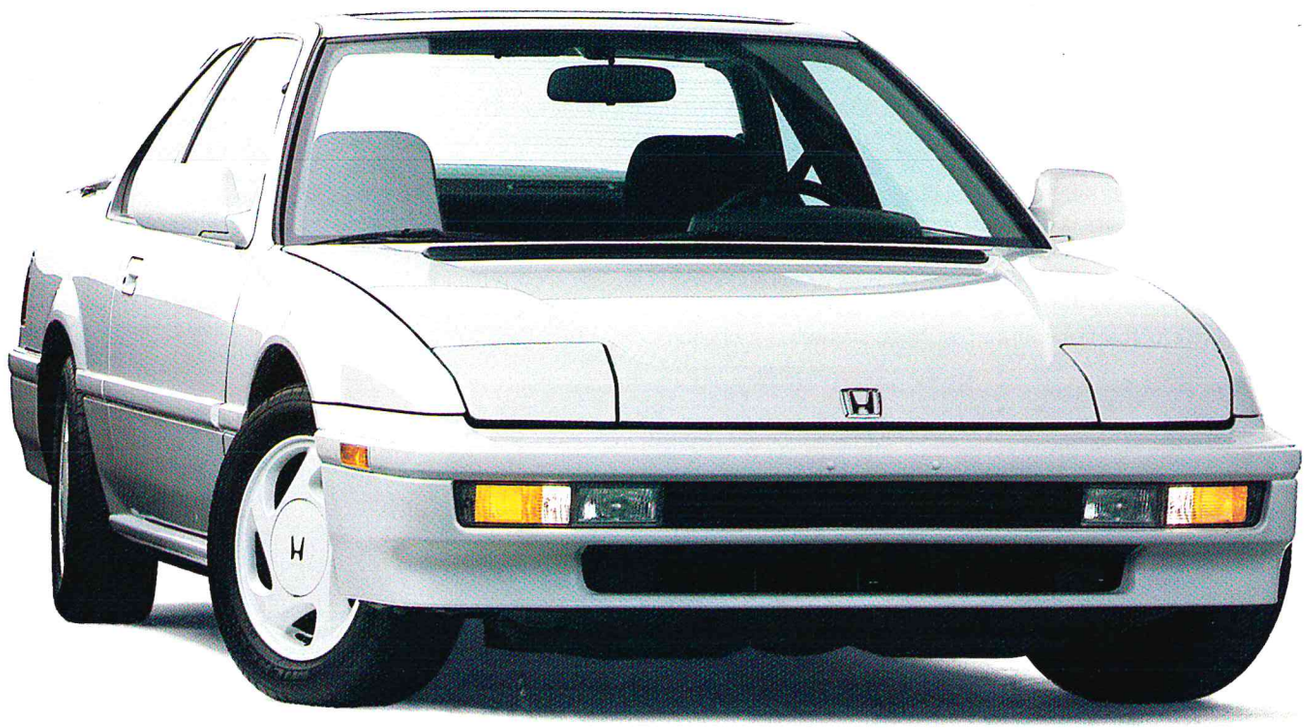
Executive Producer: Ron Logan
Show Producer: Scott Powhatan
Show Director/Writer: Judy Lawrence
Musical Director: Steve Skorja
Costume Designer: Bill Campbell
Production Manager: Bettina Buckley
Production Designer: Cindy White
Associate Designer: Lynn Holloway
Scenic Coordinators: David Ravetto, Phineas Perkins
Costume Supervisor: Cheryl Pucci
Field Coordinator: Taz Marosi
Casting Coordinator: Wendy Abraham
Card Stunt Coordinator: Joe Kivett
Choreographers: Roy Luthringer, Judy Chabola, Betsy Glover, Doug Jack, Robbie Mackey, Debbie Urie
Special Effects Design: Tylor Wymer
Production Stage Manager: Nancy Hart
Star Talent Stage Manager: Bobbi Colquitt
Production Assistants: Lori Stephens, LaRetta Yarbrough

Special thanks to Coca Cola for providing New Kids on the Block, and to their manager, Dick Scott; to Sal Murillo with Unique Entertainment; and the Las Vegas Riviera Hotel for providing Seth Horton.

Gin Ellis

Halftime at Super Bowl XXI (the Rose Bowl)

Split de



The Prelude Si with 4-Wheel Steering. HONDA

© 1990 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

cision.

The Prelude Si with Anti-Lock Brakes. HONDA

It's not whether you win or lose,
it's what you drink after the game that counts.

For Pete's Sake

In recognition of the nearly 30 years of leadership provided by former NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, the National Football League has named the Super Bowl most-valuable-player trophy in his honor.

"No name is more synonymous with the Super Bowl than Pete Rozelle," said NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who succeeded Rozelle on November 5, 1989. "It was his imagination and foresight that made this great event a reality, and his guidance that elevated Super Sunday to an unofficial national holiday."

The 18-inch-high sterling silver trophy was designed by Tiffany & Co.

The Vince Lombardi Trophy, given to the Super Bowl winning team, also was designed by Tiffany (see story beginning on page 46). It was named for Lombardi after his death in 1970.

Two other trophies are given to the AFC and NFC championship teams. The Lamar Hunt Trophy, named for the conference president, AFL founder, and owner of the Kansas City Chiefs, goes to the AFC winner. The George Halas Trophy, named for the late NFL pioneer and player, coach, and owner of the Chicago Bears, is presented to the NFC winner.

A Jury of Their Peers

NFL Alumni

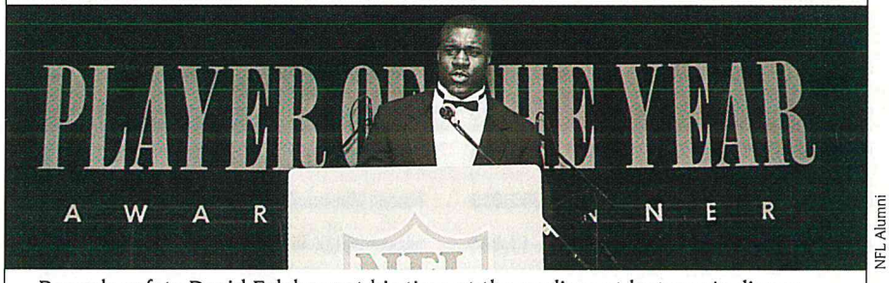
Emcee Ray Scott lined up the winners for a curtain call.

The best of the past honor the best of the present in the name of charity at the NFL Alumni's Player of the Year Awards Dinner. Held in the Super Bowl host city on Super Saturday night before the game, this year's affair marked the ninth of the series.

The focus of the dinner, which was emceed by Ray Scott and ABC Sports' Lynn Swann and Bob Griese, was the naming of the 1990 NFL Alumni Player of the Year Award winners. The winners are current players selected as the most proficient performers at their positions for the past season, as chosen by NFL Alumni members who once played the same positions.

Another of the evening's highlights was the naming of the winner of the NFL Alumni's annual Old Hero Award. This prestigious award is given to persons outside of football who are seen by the NFL Alumni as top role models for American youth. The award this year was given to former presidential press secretary James S. Brady. Previous winners include Walter Cronkite, Bob Hope, Lee Iacocca, and Chuck Yeager.

The proceeds from the $1,000-a-plate dinner principally benfitted a pair of charities—corporate sponsor USF&G's "National Drive to Cure Paralysis" and the NFL Alumni's "Caring for Kids" program.



NFL Alumni

Bengals safety David Fulcher got his time at the podium at last year's dinner.

Honored Two

The recipients of two of the NFL's most highly regarded awards were announced in the days prior to Super Bowl XXV.

The Miller Lite NFL Player of the Year Award allows fans the opportunity to select the NFL's top player via ballots in national publications and a 900-number telephone line. Last season, in the program's inaugural year, the winner was San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana.

The player selected as the Miller Lite NFL Player of the Year receives $30,000 to donate to his favorite charity. Each of the other five finalists receives a $5,000 donation to charity in his name. With the weekly charity donations given in the names of the 17 Miller Lite NFL Player of the Week winners (announced during the season in USA *Today*), Miller Brewing donates more than $125,000 to worthy causes through the program.

The Travelers NFL Man of the Year Award is given annually to the outstanding "citizen athlete" in the NFL. Nominees are selected on the basis of their charitable and community service achievements as well as their on-field performance.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

The Miller Lite Award

Chicago Bears linebacker Mike Singletary is the 1990 award winner.

Administered by the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the Travelers NFL Man of the Year program generates more than $50,000 for charity. The award winner receives a $25,000 donation to the charity of his choice from the Travelers Companies Foundation. The Foundation also donates $1,000 to the charities specified by each of the other 27 nominees, one from each NFL team. Last year's winner was Houston Oilers quarterback Warren Moon.

Acura Integra	$12,850
Acura NSX	60,000
Alfa Romeo 164S	29,500
Aston Martin Virage	229,800
Audi 80 Quattro	24,810
Audi 100	28,150
Audi Quattro V-8	50,200
Bentley Turbo R	174,900
BMW 318i	19,900
BMW 535i	42,600
BMW 850i	73,600
Buick Skylark	10,725
Buick Regal	15,690
Buick Roadmaster Estate	21,445
Buick Park Avenue	24,385
Buick Reatta	29,300
Cadillac DeVille	30,205
Cadillac Allante	55,250
Chevrolet Cavalier Z24	12,050
Chevrolet Camaro Z28	15,445
Chevrolet Lumina Euro	14,795
Chevrolet Caprice	16,515
Chevrolet Corvette ZR-1	64,138
Chrysler LeBaron	16,699
Chrysler Fifth Avenue	20,875
Dodge Stealth R/T	29,595
Dodge Spirit R/T	17,800
Ferrari F40	395,000
Ford Escort GT	11,484
Ford Tempo	$9,691
Ford Mustang GT	15,034
Ford Taurus	13,352
Ford Probe GT	14,964
Ford Thunderbird SC	20,999
Ford LTD Country Squire	18,335
Geo Prizm	10,295
Honda Accord SE	19,545
Honda Civic LX	10,500
Hyundai Sonata V6	12,170
Infiniti Q45	39,000
Jaguar XJ-6 Vanden Plas	49,900
Lamborghini Diablo	211,000
Lexus LS 400	38,000
Lincoln Town Car	29,458
Lincoln Mark VII LSC	30,238
Lotus Esprit	86,750
Mercedes-Benz 190E	28,050
Mercedes-Benz 300CE	57,350
Mercedes-Benz 500SL	89,300
Mercury Capri XR2	15,920
Mercury Sable	15,311
Mercury Cougar XR-7	20,905
Mitsubishi Galant GSX	16,959
Mitsubishi Eclipse GSX	17,529
Nissan Stanza	11,900
Nissan 240 SX	13,859
Nissan Maxima SE	18,399
Nissan 300ZX Turbo	33,500
Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme	$14,995
Oldsmobile 98	23,695
Peugeot 405 Mi 16	21,700
Plymouth Acclaim	10,805
Pontiac Sunbird Convertible	14,414
Pontiac Grand Am	10,174
Pontiac Firebird Trans Am GTA	24,530
Pontiac Bonneville	16,834
Pontiac Grand Prix	14,294
Porsche 944	43,350
Porsche Carrera 4	72,000
Porsche 928 GT	77,500
Rolls-Royce Corniche III	220,100
Saab 900	18,295
Saab 9000 CD Turbo	33,995
Saturn Touring Sedan	10,295
Sterling 827	26,500
Subaru Legacy Sport Sedan	18,899
Subaru XT-6	17,748
Suzuki Swift GT	9,399
Toyota Camry V6	13,968
Toyota Cressida	22,198
Toyota Corolla Coupe	11,418
Toyota Celica GT-S	16,668
Toyota MR2 Turbo	18,478
Volkswagen GTI	10,440
Volkswagen Jetta 16V	14,550
Volkswagen Corrado	18,675
Volvo 740	22,755

Source: Autoweek 11/5/90,"1991 New Car Prices."

Isn't your car worth the extra protection?

Protect the environment. Take your used motor oil to an approved collection center.

Environmental Awareness

© 1990 Mobil Oil Corporation

SuperPro, Marvel's newest good guy

Tent City Story

The Super Bowl Village that grew in the Tampa Stadium parking lot provided an added dimension to the Super Bowl-week goings-on. Open since last Thursday in parking lot sections J and K, the Super Bowl Village offered fans a number of NFL- and Super Bowl-themed attractions:

Super Bowl Card Show II featured booths manned by sports collectible exhibitors and dealers from across the country, plus trading-card manufacturers, including Pro Set, the official card of the NFL. Also on hand for free autographs were current and former NFL players such as Fred Biletnikoff, Marcus Allen, Bart Starr, Don Maynard, John Stallworth, Paul Warfield, and Drew Pearson. Admission to Super Bowl Card Show II cost $7 for adults, $3 for children under 12.

NFL Films Mini-Theater showed continuous NFL highlight films.

The Digital Silver Anniversary Super Bowl Exhibit told the story of the Super Bowl through action photos, spectacular illustrations, and game memorabilia. Taken from the pages of the newly published Super Bowl history, *The Super Bowl*, the exhibit also featured a computerized Super Bowl trivia quiz.

SuperPro, the new Marvel Comics NFL superhero who made his publishing debut earlier this month, made his first public appearance in Super Bowl Village.

Fan Fantasy Tent contained all available football video and pinball games, set up for fans to play. There also were arcade games with NFL licensed products as prizes, souvenir game tokens, and a Pro Set personalized football-card booth where fans put their own likenesses and stats on a Pro Set trading card.

Plus, there was live musical entertainment, Super Bowl souvenir shops, and live broadcasts by local Tampa radio station Q105. There even was a Federal Express booth to facilitate fans who wished to ship silver anniversary Super Bowl souvenirs home.

Send Me In, Coach

A group of fortunate Tampa-area youngsters got a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for one-on-one football instruction from NFL players at the Super Bowl XXV Tele-Clinic on Saturday, January 19, in Tampa Stadium.

Sponsored by Pro Set, the official trading card of the NFL, and produced by former Miami Dolphins star wide receiver Nat Moore, the clinic featured more than 50 current and former NFL stars from teams around the league working with 2,500 young players ages 10 through 16.

While football was the main focus of the day's events, the kids and players also had sessions on staying in school and staying away from drugs. A videotaped and edited version of the clinic was broadcast yesterday on The Learning Channel cable television network.

Saints' Kevin Haverdink plays coach.

Stages Right

Super Bowl Week in Tampa featured a constant wave of festivities along the waterfront.

From the Bayfront Center you could see Houston—Whitney Houston, that is. Her show yesterday (January 26) headlined a variety of entertainment at the Bayfront Center that included the Cleveland String Quartet (January 19), the Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra of the Soviet Union (January 22), and the Florida Orchestra Masterworks (January 24).

Frank Sinatra was the name at the University of South Florida Suncoast Dome. Last night (January 26), he teamed with Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme in a performance that took everyone back to Broadway. The night before (January 25), Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band filled the dome with Florida-style rock 'n' roll.

Ruth Eckard Hall played host to Tammy Wynette and Waylon Jennings (January 25) and the Smothers Brothers, and Wynton Marsalis performed at the Tampa Theatre (January 26).

Various activities honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., also took place during the week. They started on January 19 with a three-hour showcase reception at the Tampa Theatre. On January 21, an ethnic feast at the St. Paul AME Church and subsequent parade in Straub Park in St. Petersburg helped the city pay tribute to Dr. King's memory.

Topping off the week's events on January 26 was the Bamboleo Festival, Tampa's kickoff party for the game. A large flotilla, heading to Harbour Island, set sail at 10 A.M. from Bayshore Boulevard.

The flotilla returned to port just in time for the festival's parade, which began on Bayshore Boulevard at 2 P.M. and ended in downtown Tampa. Immediately following the parade was a festival party on Harbour Island.

Roll Call

While a worldwide audience of billions has watched television broadcasts of Super Bowl games, only a relatively small number of fans have had the opportunity to see a Super Bowl in person.

Sometime before today's kickoff, however, a Super Bowl attendance milestone will be reached when the two-millionth fan passes through the Tampa Stadium turnstiles. A total audience of 1,953,690 has attended the 24 Super Bowls to date.

Attendance for Super Bowl games has ranged from a crowd of 61,946 in Super Bowl I in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (the only game that was not a sellout) to the record 103,985 who saw Super Bowl XIV in Pasadena's Rose Bowl. Today's attendance is expected to be 72,500.

NASA keeps an eye on Space Shuttle payloads with Sony Trinitron XBR TV's.

Sony Trinitron XBR.

While you're watching today's SuperBowl, NFL officials will be watching today's game on Sony Trinitron® XBR™ TV's. They're the official video equipment of the NFL, because the NFL knows they can trust Sony's clear, sharp picture to judge close calls.

You'll also find that Sony Trinitron XBR meets the demands of NASA and Disney. And remarkably, the very same technology that graces these Trinitron televisions is embodied in the ones that are available to you. We don't have two sets of standards for our television sets.

Nothing demonstrates that single standard of excellence more powerfully than the 32″ XBR50. To begin with, this television introduces a quantum leap in picture excellence called ASC™—Active Signal Correction circuitry. Using artificial intelli-

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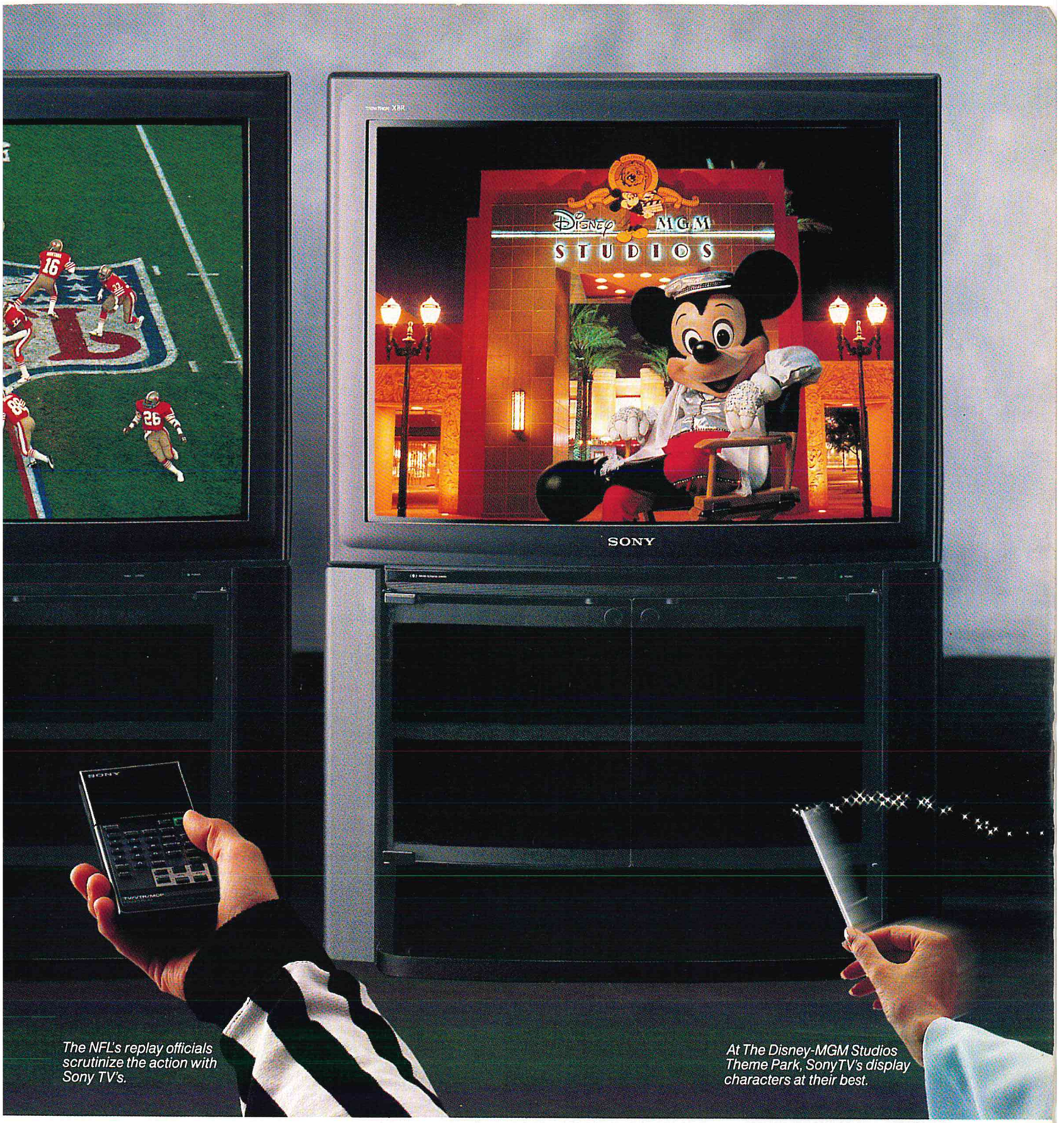


The NFL's replay officials scrutinize the action with Sony TV's.

At The Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park, SonyTV's display characters at their best.

The Screen Behind The Scenes.

gence, it's able to optimize the picture an astonishing *60 times a second*—to assure unvarying picture quality. You'll also discover SRS™—the Sound Retrieval System technology. This breakthrough expands the impact of stereo and mono by creating a "soundstage" that extends far beyond the TV itself.

From its unprecedented accuracy of sight and sound, to its strikingly handsome design, the Trinitron XBR Series represents an acceleration in the evolution of television. In fact, rarely is this level of expert technology available beyond the experts themselves. So the question becomes: why own a television that's made just for amateurs when there's one that satisfies the professionals?

SONY®

'Tis Better to Give...

For the sixth consecutive year, GTE, the official telecommunications consultant to the NFL and Super Bowl XXV, is providing in-stadium gifts to fans attending the Super Bowl.

This year's gift is a specially designed seat cushion with an integral fold-over pouch. In each seat cushion's pouch is an individually numbered, limited edition set of commemorative Super Bowl cards. The collectible cards, 25 to a set, feature the theme art from one Super Bowl on the front, and a scoring summary of that game on the back.

In providing the Super Bowl gifts, GTE has benefited local community groups by involving them in the gift distribution process. This year's effort brought together a number of Tampa-based GTE employee-volunteers and a group of people from the J. Clifford MacDonald Training Center, a United Way-funded organization that trains physically and mentally challenged individuals in a variety of skills and then assists them in finding work.

Buick has sponsored another valuable collectible found in the seat cushion pouches—a special-edition album of NFL Pro Set trading cards that features, among other cards, the 27 members of the Super Bowl Silver Anniversary Team.

Also included in the pouches are materials relating to participation in today's halftime card stunt.

On the March

A week of special events was begun by "America's Salute to Marching Bands," the official national high school marching band competition endorsed by the NFL. On Friday, January 18, 28 high school bands, one representing each NFL team, performed in Orlando in a field competition. The next morning, the bands participated in a Super Bowl-week kickoff parade at Disney World's Epcot Center. The combined scores from both performances were tallied and the overall winner was announced Saturday evening. Last year's winner was the Bensalem High School Marching Band from Bensalem, Pennsylvania.

Hot Ticket

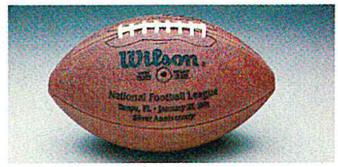
Super Bowl tickets always are hard to come by before each game. But the ticket for Super Bowl XXV will be in great demand even after the game.

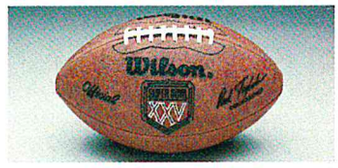
This year's ticket is the first ever to feature a hologram. Produced by Polaroid, using its patented mirage process, the hologram, which is best viewed in full sunlight, depicts the Super Bowl XXV logo and the Vince Lombardi Trophy towering over Tampa Stadium.

Slightly more than 100,000 of the tickets were printed, including those held by fans at the game, and approximately 30,000 used for souvenir purposes.

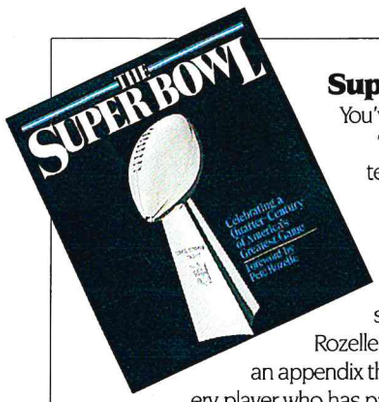
Having a Ball at 50

In 1991, the Wilson Sporting Goods Company celebrates its fiftieth anniversary as the supplier of the official game ball of the NFL. Wilson has provided the NFL its footballs since the 1941 season, after being selected as the official manufacturer at a league meeting in December, 1940.





To commemorate the occasion, and to celebrate the silver anniversary Super Bowl, Wilson has produced a specially decorated ball for today's game. The Super Bowl XXV ball is the same as the official model, signed by NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, but with the addition of the Super Bowl XXV logo emblazoned on one of its sides in silver. The other side has the date and site of today's game, plus the words, "Silver Anniversary." A limited number of these official Super Bowl XXV balls will be available to the public through selected sporting goods stores.



Super Bowl: The Book

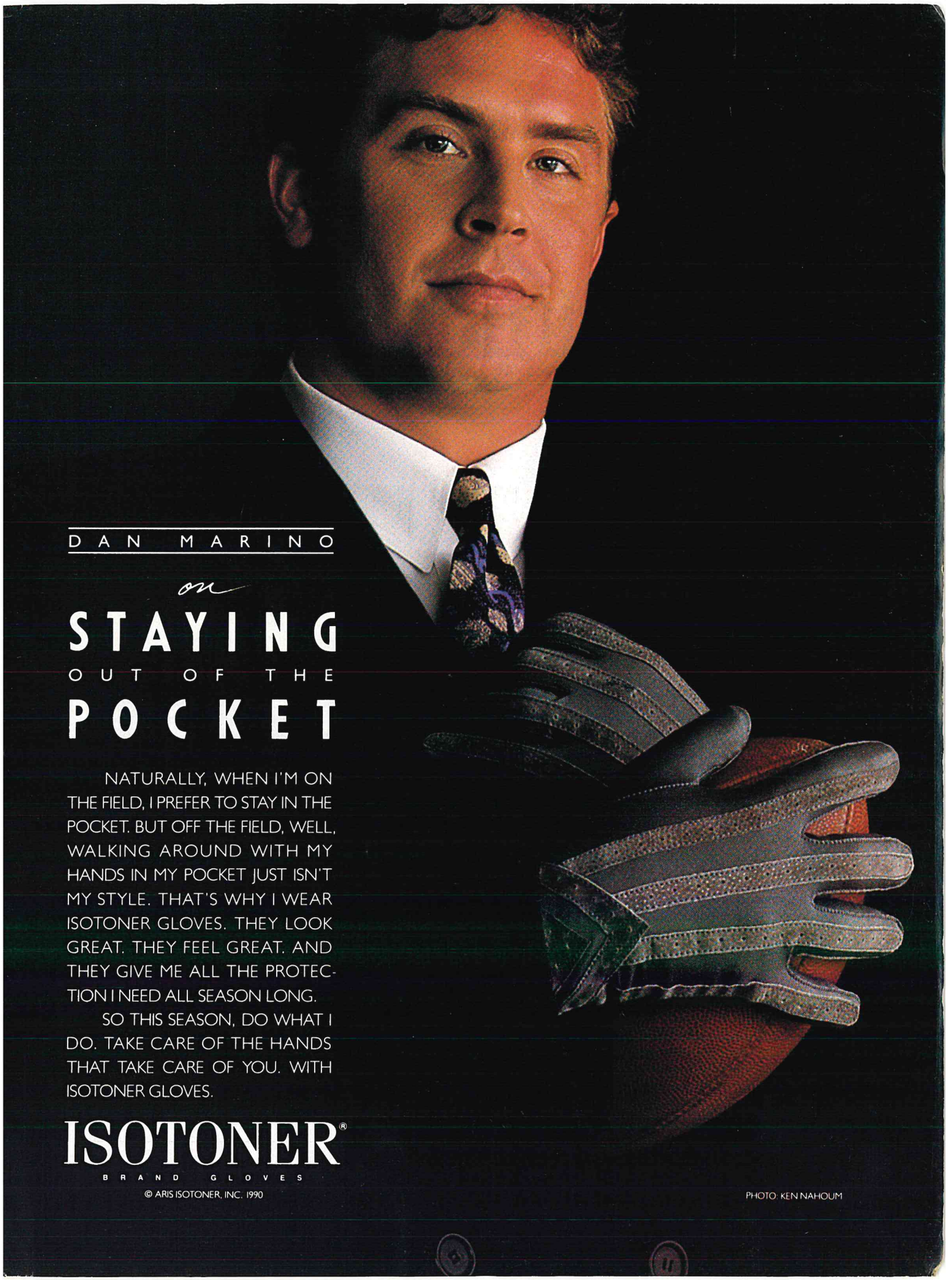
You've seen the games; now read the book.

The Super Bowl, published last fall by Simon and Schuster, is the special silver anniversary record of the NFL's ultimate game. Included in its 382 pages are lavishly illustrated stories on every one of the 24 Super Bowls to date, plus a scoring summary, full play-by-play, and complete statistics for each game. There's also a foreword by former NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, 25 specially commissioned fold-out illustrations, and an appendix that lists all-time Super Bowl records and a roster of every player who has participated in the Super Bowl.

The Super Bowl is available at bookstores everywhere.

Good Drivers

More than 250 golfers teed off Thursday at the Saddle Brook Golf Resort in the Seventh Annual Buick Super Bowl Charity Golf Classic. A host of celebrities, including Pro Football Hall of Fame honorees, members of the Silver Anniversary Super Bowl Team, and current NFL stars in town for the Pro Set Football Tele-Clinic, joined amateur golfers from throughout the nation in the event, which was expected to raise more than $100,000 for NFL Charities. This year's proceeds brought the total to more than $400,000 raised by the Buick Super Bowl Classic since it began in 1985.



DAN MARINO

on

STAYING OUT OF THE POCKET

NATURALLY, WHEN I'M ON THE FIELD, I PREFER TO STAY IN THE POCKET. BUT OFF THE FIELD, WELL, WALKING AROUND WITH MY HANDS IN MY POCKET JUST ISN'T MY STYLE. THAT'S WHY I WEAR ISOTONER GLOVES. THEY LOOK GREAT. THEY FEEL GREAT. AND THEY GIVE ME ALL THE PROTECTION I NEED ALL SEASON LONG.

SO THIS SEASON, DO WHAT I DO. TAKE CARE OF THE HANDS THAT TAKE CARE OF YOU. WITH ISOTONER GLOVES.

ISOTONER®

BRAND GLOVES

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PHOTO: KEN NAHOUM

Two times faster than

1989 IMSA Camel GTP Manufacturers Champion

Smart people always read the fine print. And they always wear their seat belts.

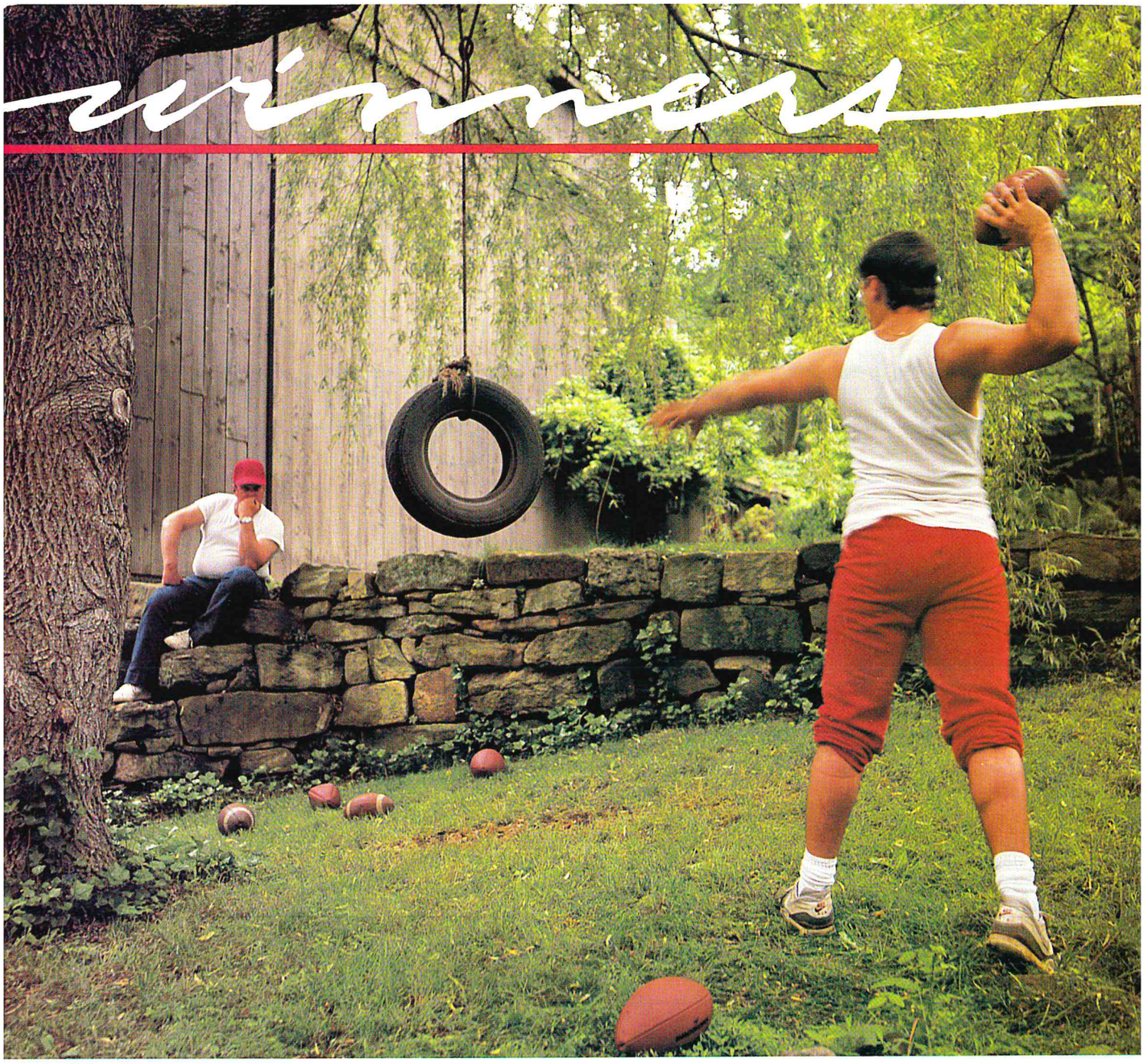
Porsche and Jaguar.

1990 IMSA Camel GTP Manufacturers Champion

Two championships in two years. Congratulations to Geoff Brabham and Chip Robinson for putting Porsche and Jaguar in their respective places. And for keeping us in ours.

NISSAN

Built for the Human Race.®



The competition is tough . . . quarterback positions aren't given, they are earned. You know what has to be done . . . and you're willing to do it. All that effort and hard work . . . yeh, it will be worth it.

Winners aren't born . . . they're made. It takes many years of hard work, dedication and commitment to achieve excellence.

Ricoh has been working diligently for over 50 years to attain the highest level of excellence in a wide variety of products for the office and home. Ricoh copiers, facsimile machines and cameras are now recognized throughout the world for their quality and reliability.

At Ricoh, we stand by our commitment to excellence. It keeps us in shape for the future.

Copiers

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Cameras

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Where Imagination Becomes Reality

SUPER BOWL THEN

Nostalgia *Facts & Figures*

Trivia *Quotes*

Supermen *Personalities*

By John Fawaz, Jim Gigliotti, Jim Natal, and Brian Peterson

'V' as in Vince...and Victory

His name is synonymous with winning. Thus, the trophy that honors the Super Bowl champion bears his name: the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

As a player, Lombardi was a 185-pound guard for Fordham, one of the storied "Seven Blocks of Granite." As an NFL assistant, he helped the New York Giants win the NFL title in 1956. As a head coach, he literally was a legend in his time.

SUPER SPEAK

"There is no way the Green Bay Packers are going to lose this football game."

—**Vince Lombardi** to his players prior to Super Bowl I

"During the five minutes or so we talked, [Lombardi] held onto my arm and he was shaking like a leaf. It was incredible."

—Announcer **Frank Gifford** on his CBS-TV interview with Vince Lombardi before Super Bowl I

He took over at Green Bay in 1959. The year before, the Packers had posted a 1-10-1 record. In Lombardi's first season, they went 7-5. In 1960, he had them in the NFL Championship Game. They lost that one, but the Packers went on to win five titles in the next seven years, including the first two Super Bowls (after the 1966 and 1967 seasons).

A gruff, no-nonsense coach, Lombardi devoted all of himself to the quest for victory. He expected the same from his players. For all his harsh veneer, Lombardi was an emotional person, especially about his team. "I came in second best in the love department," his wife Marie once said. "His first love was his precious Packers."

His legend—and that of the Packers—already was well-established by the time Super Bowl I rolled around. It appeared to be a cakewalk, the two-time defending NFL champions against Kansas City, the champion of what many observers considered an inferior league. It was close for a while, with Green Bay leading only 14-10 at halftime. But Lombardi ordered the defense to blitz in the second half, forcing a key interception that led to a touchdown. The Packers went on to win 35-10.

Super Bowl II was almost anti-climactic. To get to the game, Green Bay defeated Dallas 21-17 in 13-below-zero weather conditions. The Packers won when Lombardi passed up a field goal that would have tied the score and went for the game-winning touchdown. Quarterback Bart Starr sneaked over from the 1.

Then, in a virtual repeat of the first Super Bowl, the young Oakland Raiders stayed close for a while until the Packers pulled away to win 33-14. Lombardi stepped down as Green Bay's coach two weeks after the game. In nine seasons with the Packers, he had a 98-30-4 record.

Lombardi stayed out of coaching for only one season, returning as the Washington Redskins' head coach in 1969. He led the Redskins to a 7-5-2 record, their first winning season in 14 years. But he didn't get to finish the job, succumbing to cancer in September, 1970. Four months later, after Super Bowl V, Commissioner Pete Rozelle presented the Vince Lombardi Trophy to the victorious Baltimore Colts.

A Fine Mess

When he was head coach of the Green Bay Packers, all Vince Lombardi had to do was bellow and most of his players would jump. All except Max McGee.

McGee would goof off. Lombardi would discipline him. McGee would miss curfew. Lombardi would fine him. McGee would continue to defy the coach. Lombardi would grow increasingly frustrated.

During training camp one year, Lombardi fined McGee $100 for being out after curfew. A second violation cost McGee $250. A third cost him $500...and Lombardi's wrath.

"Max, if I catch you again, the fine will be one thousand dollars!" Lombardi snapped. Then he paused. "Max, if you find anything worth a thousand for sneaking out, call me and I'll go with you."

Once, in the preseason, McGee did find something worth sneaking out for, and he didn't get caught by Lombardi—at least not right away. McGee got caught by the police, who gave him a speeding ticket on his way back to camp.

Starr Bright

He was the winningest quarterback of the 1960s, a man who guided the Green Bay Packers to five NFL titles in seven years. He is one of the highest-rated quarterbacks of all time, a pinpoint passer who set an NFL record by throwing 294 consecutive passes without an interception.

But when Bart Starr played, he always seemed to be in the shadows of either Baltimore quarterback Johnny Unitas or, in Green Bay, head coach Vince Lombardi. No matter how well he played, Starr was no Unitas; no matter how many titles he won, most of the credit went to Lombardi.

A seventeenth-round draft choice in 1956, Starr often was seen as just a piece in Lombardi's machine, which emphasized running the ball. Like Otto Graham in the 1950s and even Joe Montana in the 1980s, Starr was viewed as a coach's creation.

This characterization was no more fair to Starr than it was to Graham or Montana. Starr was a perfect spark plug, not a replaceable cog.

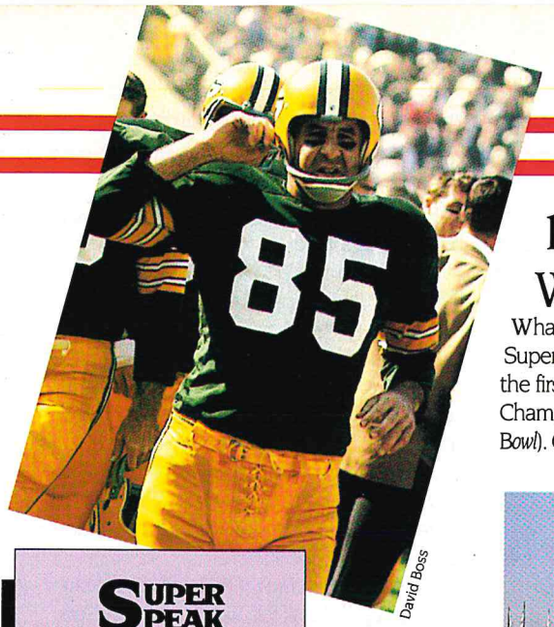
NFL Photo

Starr and Lombardi confer on the sideline.

Starr's trademarks were his efficiency and his play in the clutch. Both were on display in the first two Super Bowls.

In Super Bowl I, Starr completed 16 of 23 passes for 250 yards and 2 touchdowns. Under his direction, Green Bay converted 11 of 14 third-down opportunities. The Packers totaled 294 yards on their five touchdown drives, with Starr's passing accounting for 236 of those yards. Starr was voted most valuable player as Green Bay defeated Kansas City 35-10.

Starr also earned MVP honors in Super Bowl II, completing 13 of 24 passes for 202 yards. Included was a 62-yard touchdown pass to flanker Boyd Dowler, made possible when Starr spotted a mix-up in coverage. Green Bay defeated the Oakland Raiders 33-14.



David Boss

McGee was better at evading tacklers than he was at evading Lombardi's ire.

SUPER SPEAK

"He'd probably have said, 'What the hell's a woman doing on the field?' "

—**Mrs. Vince Lombardi**, when asked what her late husband would have said about her performing the coin toss at Super Bowl XV

When the Packers returned home from a preseason game on Sunday, a Green Bay newspaper headline blared, "ST. LOUIS KNOCKS OFF THE PACK." Directly below, another headline said, "McGEE GOING TO COURT FOR LATE-NIGHT SPEEDING."

When he got hold of McGee, Lombardi was gleeful. "You thought you were going to get away with it, didn't you?" Lombardi said. "There's no way you can beat me. And that's gonna cost you a thousand."

Their run-ins weren't limited to curfew violations. After a sloppy game that the Packers won 6-3, Lombardi told the team they were going to start from scratch. He held up a ball and sarcastically said, "This is a football."

"Slow it down a little, Coach," McGee said. "You're going too fast."

Nothing was sacred for McGee, not even Lombardi's godlike aura. Two officials came to training camp one year to give the players a quiz on the new rules for that season.

"I don't expect you to get all twenty answers right," Lombardi said. "I just took it and missed two questions myself."

"Don't worry, Coach," McGee said. "They'll change those two rules."

McGee's antics didn't affect his performance, a perfect example being Super Bowl I. McGee, risking a $5,000 fine, was out all night before the game. He replaced the injured Boyd Dowler in the first quarter, and went on to catch 7 passes for 138 yards, including touchdowns of 37 and 13 yards.

1967: *Return With Us Now...*

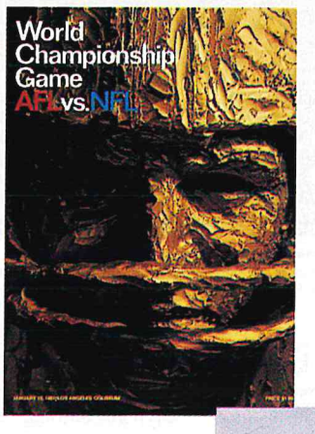
What the Super Bowl is today is everything Super Bowl I wasn't 24 years ago. Officially, the first game was called the AFL-NFL World Championship Game (III was the first *Super Bowl*). Game I wasn't played in a new stadium

David Boss

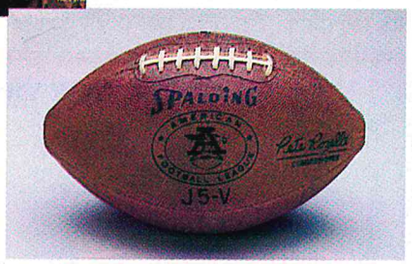
Some of the 30,000 *empty seats at the Coliseum*

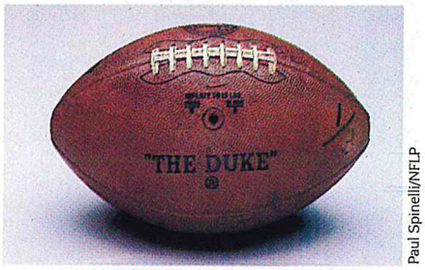
like Joe Robbie Stadium, site of XXIII, but in the venerable Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, at that time already 43 years old.

What is now the hottest ticket around couldn't be given away prior to Super Bowl I. On a smoggy 72-degree day in January, only 61,946 people showed up, filling just two-thirds of the cavernous Coliseum. Steep ticket prices ($12, $10, and $6) were blamed for the disappointing turnout.



The first Super Bowl program (above) was put together in 10 *days; both the* AFL *and* NFL *balls (right) were used in Super Bowl* I.





Paul Spinelli/NFLP

The game was blacked out in Los Angeles, and would have been even in the event of a sellout. One newspaper diagrammed how to attach a coat hanger to a television antenna, enabling the viewer to receive the game from stations outside the blackout area. Some people drove to Santa Barbara or San Diego and watched the game in hotel rooms.

Local newspapers didn't know what to make of the game. The Packers weren't even in town, having spent the week 90 miles away in Santa Barbara. Their head coach, Vince Lombardi, wasn't saying much anyway. Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt was in town, expressing confidence only that it wouldn't be a blowout. Even inflammatory comments by Chiefs cornerback Fred (The Hammer) Williamson didn't generate much excitement, though they did provide the Packers with a few chuckles.

Hype, such a staple of today's games, was partially upstaged in Los Angeles by stories on the NFL Pro Bowl to be played the following week, also in the Coliseum. The Pro Bowl it seemed, was the real game; the AFL-NFL game was perceived to be a novelty.

Eight-hundred media credentials were issued, with 338 of those going to members of the print media. All the reporters fit into the Coliseum press box. For Super Bowl XXIV, 2,800 credentials were issued, necessitating three press boxes to accommodate everybody.

The atmosphere was cordial and relaxed. There was no media

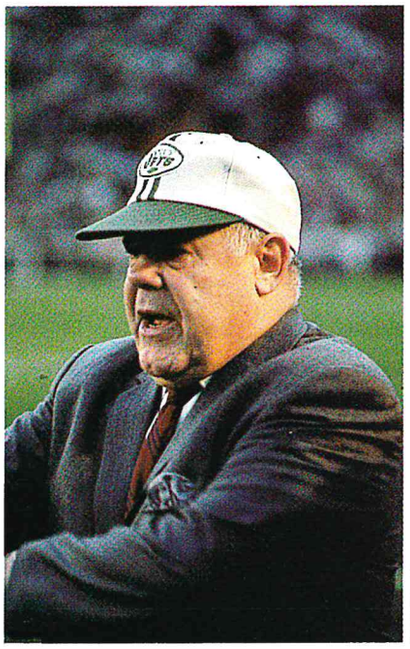
day where each player sat at his own table and then was surrounded (or ignored) by hordes of reporters with notepads and microphones. Super Bowl I was so cordial and relaxed that Bart Starr gave interviews in his Santa Barbara hotel room.

The game itself was dramatically different then. The hashmarks were college standard, meaning they were wider, which often moved the ball much closer to the sidelines. There were fewer assistant coaches—Green Bay and Kansas City each had six, compared with the 14 assistant coaches Washington had in Super Bowl XXII. Two different footballs were used in Super Bowl I. When Green Bay was on offense, the Packers used the official NFL ball, "The Duke" by Wilson. Kansas City's offense used the AFL ball by Spalding, which, according to AFL passers, was more pointed, allowing for a better grip.

The goal posts were on the goal line, not the back of the end zone as they are today (they were moved before the 1974 season). There were two posts instead of one, and the uprights were shorter than they are today.

There were six officials, three from each league. They wore special uniforms designed for the game. The AFL's two-point conversions were not allowed. Substitutions, which occur after virtually every play today, were made only in case of injury in the first Super Bowl.

Though not as grand as later Super Bowls, pregame and halftime entertainment featured a pageant of high school and college bands, cardboard cutout floats in a salute to the United States, trumpeter Al Hirt, and 4,000 pigeons released on the field.



Tony Tomsic

Ewbank is the only head coach to win a championship in the NFL *and the* AFL.

Winning the BIG ONES

The winning coach in two of pro football's most important games was a short, unassuming man with a slight paunch and a winning smile. Weeb Ewbank didn't look the part. All he did was win the Big One.

In the 1958 NFL Championship Game, with a huge nationwide audience watching, Ewbank's Baltimore Colts outlasted the New York Giants 23-17 in overtime. For the first time, pro football captured the national imagination.

Ewbank won another title the next year, but later was fired by the Colts. In January, 1969, as head coach of the New York Jets, he led the AFL champions into Super Bowl III against his old team, the Colts.

The first two Super Bowls had been runaways by the Green Bay Packers, and III seemed to hold little hope of reversing the trend. Baltimore was favored by 18 points.

But when Ewbank looked at the Colts, he saw a team without much speed, a team with a glaring weakness in its secondary, a team without big-play people.

All in all, it was a team that could be beaten. The key, Ewbank felt, would be for the Jets to keep their composure, something the first two AFL representatives hadn't done.

So he devised a ball-control offense around the running of Matt Snell and the passing of Joe Namath. It worked to perfection, and New York pulled off one of the biggest upsets in sports history with a 16-7 triumph over the Colts.

The win provided much needed legitimacy for the AFL and established the Super Bowl as the top single-day sports event in America.

'The Jets Will Win... I GUARANTEE IT'

When the newspapers bannered the quote, most people laughed. The Colts were such prohibitive favorites that, instead of bravado, it was viewed as the rantings of a desperate man.

To the Jets, though, Joe Namath's guarantee was not a delusion or a gimmick. It was logical. Finally, someone had said aloud to everyone what previously the Jets only would whisper to themselves: The Colts were beatable, and the Jets were the team to do it.

They proved that in Super Bowl III in Miami. In an epic upset, New York defeated Baltimore 16-7 in the Orange Bowl. Namath earned most-valuable-player honors, completing 17 of 28 passes for 206 yards, with no interceptions.

Namath called virtually every play at the line of the scrimmage, keeping the Colts off balance with the running of Matt Snell and weakside passes to George Sauer. New York rolled up 337 yards in total offense against a defense that had allowed only 241 yards per game during the regular season.

It was an important victory for professional football. It established the Super Bowl as a genuine event, making it a hot television property. With the merger approaching, the

FOR THE RECORD

Game	Date	Site	Attendance	Winner	Loser
I	1-15-67	Los Angeles	61,946	Green Bay (NFL) 35	Kansas City (AFL) 10
II	1-14-68	Miami	75,546	Green Bay (NFL) 33	Oakland (AFL) 14
III	1-12-69	Miami	75,389	New York Jets (AFL) 16	Baltimore (NFL) 7
IV	1-11-70	New Orleans	80,562	Kansas City (AFL) 23	Minnesota (NFL) 7
V	1-17-71	Miami	79,204	Baltimore (AFC) 16	Dallas (NFC) 13
VI	1-16-72	New Orleans	81,023	Dallas (NFC) 24	Miami (AFC) 3
VII	1-14-73	Los Angeles	90,182	Miami (AFC) 14	Washington (NFC) 7
VIII	1-13-74	Houston	71,882	Miami (AFC) 24	Minnesota (NFC) 7
IX	1-12-75	New Orleans	80,997	Pittsburgh (AFC) 16	Minnesota (NFC) 6
X	1-18-76	Miami	80,187	Pittsburgh (AFC) 21	Dallas (NFC) 17
XI	1- 9-77	Pasadena	103,438	Oakland (AFC) 32	Minnesota (NFC) 14
XII	1-15-78	New Orleans	75,583	Dallas (NFC) 27	Denver (AFC) 10
XIII	1-21-79	Miami	79,484	Pittsburgh (AFC) 35	Dallas (NFC) 31
XIV	1-20-80	Pasadena	103,985	Pittsburgh (AFC) 31	Los Angeles (NFC) 19
XV	1-25-81	New Orleans	76,135	Oakland (AFC) 27	Philadelphia (NFC) 10
XVI	1-24-82	Pontiac	81,270	San Francisco (NFC) 26	Cincinnati (AFC) 21
XVII	1-30-83	Pasadena	103,667	Washington (NFC) 27	Miami (AFC) 17
XVIII	1-22-84	Tampa	72,920	Los Angeles Raiders (AFC) 38	Washington (NFC) 9
XIX	1-20-85	Stanford	84,059	San Francisco (NFC) 38	Miami (AFC) 16
XX	1-26-86	New Orleans	73,818	Chicago (NFC) 46	New England (AFC) 10
XXI	1-25-87	Pasadena	101,063	New York Giants (NFC) 39	Denver (AFC) 20
XXII	1-31-88	San Diego	73,302	Washington (NFC) 42	Denver (AFC) 10
XXIII	1-22-89	Miami	75,129	San Francisco (NFC) 20	Cincinnati (AFC) 16
XXIV	1-28-90	New Orleans	72,919	San Francisco (NFC) 55	Denver (AFC) 10

The Name of the Game

The name "Super Bowl," now so ingrained in the American consciousness, was nothing more than an accident.

It wasn't thought up by some slick ad agency or committee. It just happened. The first person to use the name was Lamar Hunt, owner of the Kansas City Chiefs and the AFL's chief negotiator in the AFL-NFL merger. He can thank his kids for it. Hunt explains:

"After the AFL-NFL merger in 1966 [see story on page 137], there was a six-man merger committee established, which met with [Commissioner] Pete Rozelle and [Director of Information] Don Weiss to work on the implementation of the merger. This committee met several times in the summer and fall.

"Specifically, we were worried about the championship game that had been agreed to at the end of the 1966 season. We had to work out the details for a game to be played, we didn't know where or when, except it would come after the AFL and NFL Championship Games. But we had trouble in our conversations in identifying which game we were talking about. It didn't have a name.

"At about the same time, my wife Norma had given our two oldest children, Lamar, Jr., who was nine then, and Sharron, who was eight, toy balls named Super Balls that were made by the Wham-O Manufacturing Company.

"They were highly compressed rubber balls, which, when bounced on concrete, would literally bounce over a house. My son and daughter each had one, and they loved them. They were always talking about them. When they played with them, I occasionally played with them, too.

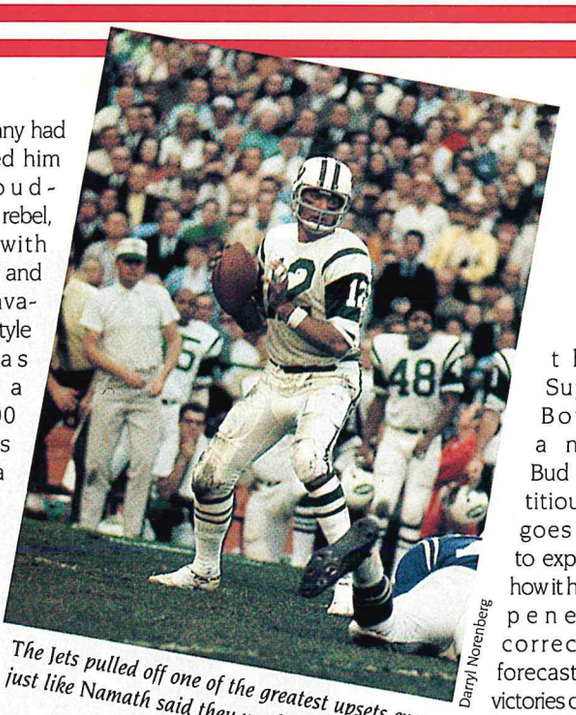
"One day at a committee meeting, I asked, 'Should there be a week off for the championship game?' And somebody else said, 'What do you mean by the championship game? AFL Championship Game or NFL Championship Game or what?'

"And I said, 'Well, I mean the final game, the last game, the *super bowl*, you know what I mean.' It just came out. The name of the ball must have been in my subconscious. It was just one of those spontaneous things.

"Everybody looked at me kind of funny and smiled, and kiddingly thereafter we would refer to the game as the Super Bowl. It just caught on within this committee, and then the media heard about it and kind of grabbed onto it and presented the first game as Super Sunday.

"But the league itself did not recognize or push the name Super Bowl until the third game, because Rozelle thought it was undignified. But eventually common slang and the media won out. They wouldn't call it anything but the Super Bowl."

—*Jim Perry*



Darryl Norenberg

The Jets pulled off one of the greatest upsets ever—just like Namath said they would.

AFL had proved it belonged. There would be no more discussion of dismantling the AFL and mixing its supposedly weaker teams into the NFL structure. Instead, three NFL teams were added to the AFL to give both 13 teams, and the leagues were renamed the National Football Conference and the American Football Conference.

It also called for a re-evaluation of Namath. Many had dismissed him as a loud-mouthed rebel, a punk with long hair and an extravagant lifestyle who was given a $400,000 bonus from a Mickey Mouse league. Everyone acknowledged his talent, but he was considered raw, especially because of the AFL's wide-open style of play. After his performance in Super Bowl III, the disclaimers no longer applied. Namath was viewed as a great quarterback who delivered on his promise.

Bud Guaranteed It, Too

Apparently, not everyone was shocked by the New York Jets' 16-7 upset of the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III.

In fact, *Sports Illustrated* had the outcome pegged five weeks before the game was played. Well, sort of had it pegged.

Under the alias "Bud," Edwin Shrake wrote a letter to his friend Max in the magazine's December 9, 1968, issue (Super Bowl III was played January 12, 1969). Max was lost in a remote part of the world when his plane went down. Upon being rescued, the Jets fan learns that his team has won the Super Bowl, and Bud fictitiously goes on to explain how it happened, correctly forecasting victories over the Oakland Raiders in the AFL Championship Game and over the Baltimore Colts in the Super Bowl.

SITES FOR SORE EYES

In the early years of the Super Bowl, the game basically was rotated between sites in Los Angeles, Miami, and New Orleans. All but one of the first 15 Super Bowls (Super Bowl VIII in Houston was the exception) were held in those three metropolitan areas.

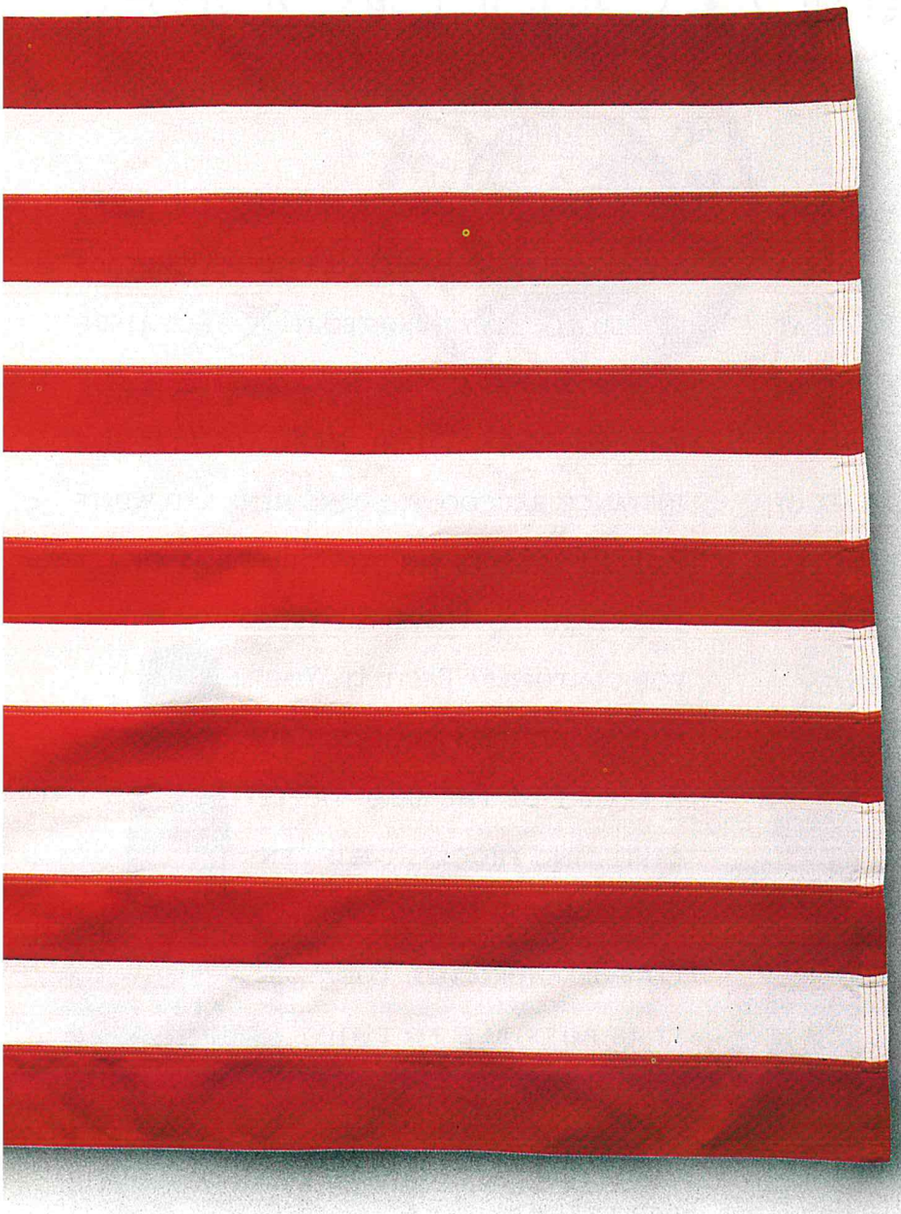
To date, New Orleans has hosted the most Super Bowls, seven. Three were held at Tulane Stadium (IV, VI, and IX) and four at the Louisiana Superdome (XII, XV, XX, and XXIV).

Los Angeles and Miami each has hosted six Super Bowls. Of the games in the Los Angeles area, two were held at the L.A. Memorial Coliseum (I and VII) and four were held at Pasadena's Rose Bowl (XI, XIV, XVII, and XXI). Los Angeles stadiums also hold the records for Super Bowl attendance. The crowd of 61,946 at Super Bowl I was the smallest in the game's history (it also was the only game that didn't sell out). Super Bowl XIV, which was played in the Rose Bowl, attracted the game's biggest crowd—103,985.

Miami's Orange Bowl has been the site of more Super Bowls than any other stadium, five (II, III, V, X, and XIII); the city's sixth Super Bowl was held at Joe Robbie Stadium (XXIII).

Beginning with Game XVI at the Pontiac Silverdome (the first Super Bowl ever in a northern city), a number of new cities and sites have hosted the game. Two Super Bowls have been awarded to Tampa Stadium (XVIII and XXV), and one each to Stanford Stadium (XIX) and San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium (XXII).

Two of the three upcoming Super Bowls will be held at first-time sites: XXVI at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, and XXVIII at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, now under construction. The site of Super Bowl XXVII has not been determined.



MILLIONS OF MEN

AND WOMEN HONOR

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SERVING UNDER IT.

WE'D LIKE TO TAKE

THIS OPPORTUNITY

TO HONOR THEM.

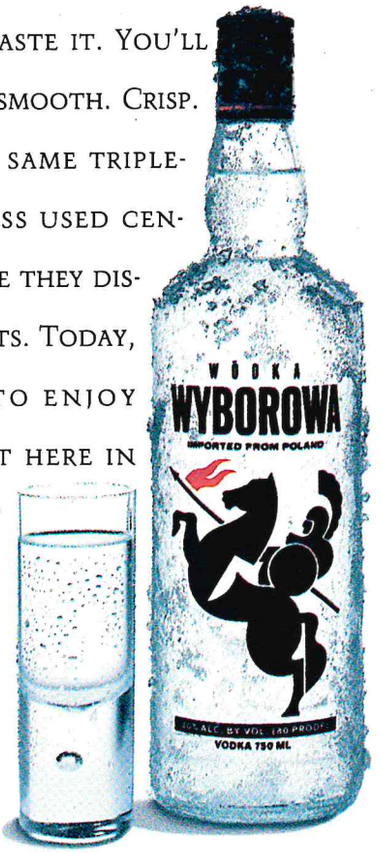
BOEING

WHITE RABBITS, MOSCOW AND POLISH VODKA.

NICE TOWN, MOSCOW. RED SQUARE, ANCIENT SPIRES, FUR HATS, CAPITALISTS . . . AND A VERITABLE MONOPOLY ON THE WORLD'S GREAT VODKAS. WHICH BRINGS US TO AN INTERESTING PIECE OF TRIVIA ABOUT WHAT IS ARGUABLY THE FINEST VODKA IN ALL OF RUSSIA. WYBOROWA (VEE-BA-ROVA). IT ISN'T RUSSIAN. IT'S POLISH VODKA.

FIRST DISTILLED CENTURIES AGO. AND LEGENDARY EVER SINCE.

SO LEGENDARY THAT THE RUSSIANS DID WHAT ANY COUNTRY OF 140,000,000 VODKA FANATICS WOULD DO. THEY IMPORTED IT. BUT THEN, WYBOROWA HAS ALWAYS HAD A SLIGHTLY ECCENTRIC HISTORY. THERE WERE ALWAYS, FOR INSTANCE, RACCOONS, LAYING HENS AND WHITE POLISH RABBITS ON THE GROUNDS OF ITS DISTILLERY. WHY HAS WYBOROWA SURVIVED FOR CENTURIES? TASTE IT. YOU'LL FIND IT INEFFABLY SMOOTH. CRISP. A RESULT OF THE SAME TRIPLE-DISTILLING PROCESS USED CENTURIES AGO. BEFORE THEY DISCOVERED SHORTCUTS. TODAY, IT IS POSSIBLE TO ENJOY WYBOROWA RIGHT HERE IN AMERICA. WHAT BETTER WAY TO TOAST THE END OF THE COLD WAR.



"VEE-BA-ROVA" VODKA FROM POLAND. ENJOYED FOR CENTURIES STRAIGHT.

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SUPER BOWL

★THEN★

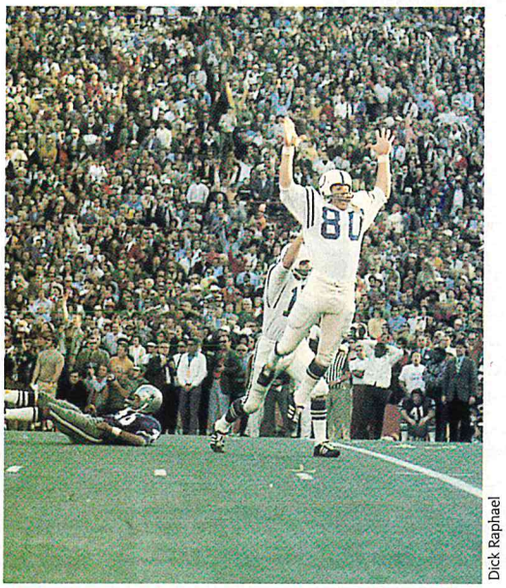
Hair-Raising Victory

For the most part, the Super Bowl has not been a spotlight for rookies. Only a few first-year players have shone in a game that largely has belonged to veterans.

One rookie who made a major impact was Baltimore kicker Jim O'Brien, who kicked a 32-yard field goal with five seconds left to give the Colts a 16-13 victory over Dallas in Super Bowl V. It was a perfect ending to a sometimes trying season for O'Brien.

Through no fault of his own, the rookie had started off on the wrong foot with his teammates. In the preseason, O'Brien won the job by beating out veteran Lou Michaels, unintentionally alienating many long-time Colts. "Every time I missed a kick, the veterans [would] tell me I'd better shape up because Michaels is waiting by his telephone in Pennsylvania," O'Brien said after the game. "I don't mind the kidding. It keeps me in my place."

His hair, which stuck out of his helmet, did not endear him to his teammates, either. Long hair may have been fashionable in 1970, but not among the straight-laced Colts. Teammates called O'Brien "Lassie."



Dick Raphael

O'Brien (80) celebrates his winning kick.

SUPER SPEAK

"I sure hope I don't make that many mistakes."

—President **Richard Nixon**, when asked for his assessment of Super Bowl V

As they prepared for the field-goal attempt, the Colts could have been excused for not brimming with confidence. Despite a season in which he made 19 of 34 field goals and scored 93 points, O'Brien had been erratic at times. He had made just 3 of 10 field goals between 30-39 yards, including a miss on his only attempt from that distance in the playoffs.

Among the Colts lacking confidence was O'Brien himself. "I don't like kicking on that turf," he said later. "I have a real long stride. My leg's going to go into the ground. Like a golf shot, you like a divot on your swing. I like a divot on my kicks. On synthetic turf, if you're a little low, your leg stops.

"I wasn't crazy about the distance, either. That's my bad zone...I was hoping it would be inside the thirty or outside the forty."

O'Brien was not the calmest of players to begin with, suffering from an ulcer that had resulted in his discharge from the Air Force Academy. Now he faced the most important kick of his life on a surface he didn't like from his poorest distance.

During the time out before the kick, most of his teammates tried to calm his nerves, but defensive tackle Billy Ray Smith offered a pointed reminder of what the kick meant monetarily ($15,000 to each member of the winning team, $7,500 to the losers). More important, for most of the Colts, the kick meant redemption for the embarrassment of losing to the New York Jets in Super Bowl III.

"When we broke the huddle, Jim was trying to pull up grass blades and throw them to check the wind," quarterback Earl Morrall said. "I reminded him we were on artificial turf. I just told him to forget the wind and hit it square."

Dallas players were yelling, trying to distract O'Brien. "But I was used to the yelling," O'Brien said. "When we practice the kicking game, Billy Ray yells and screams and makes me concentrate more. I heard them yelling and I said, 'It's the Billy Ray drill.'"

He stepped up and drilled the kick through, giving Baltimore the victory. O'Brien admitted later that he sat on the sidelines the entire game hoping it wouldn't come down to him.

In the end, the Colts were glad that it did.

SUPER SPEAK

"I'm an Aquarian, and this is my age."

—**Jim O'Brien** after kicking the winning field goal in Super Bowl V

Spaced Out

The NFL and NASA have more in common than their acronyms. A number of astronauts have been involved with Super Bowl games.

Apollo 8 astronauts Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders, fresh from their lunar orbit, led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance at Super Bowl III. Super Bowl VII featured the crew (John Young, Thomas Mattingly, and Charles Duke) and re-entry-blackened capsule from Apollo 16. Giving added dimension to the term "live via satellite," the crew of Skylab 3—Alan Bean, Jack Lousma, and Owen Garriot—watched Super Bowl VIII from Earth orbit during its mission.

At Super Bowl XXIII in Miami, a tribute to NASA and the Kennedy Space Center was part of the pregame show. Eight astronauts representing the four main phases of America's space program—Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and the Space Shuttle—appeared in person, along with space vehicles, such as a lunar rover, and hardware supplied by the Space and Rocket Center of Huntsville, Alabama. Attending the game in Miami were Gordon Cooper, Dick Gordon, Pete Conrad, and the crew of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*—Commander Robert (Hoot) Gibson, pilot Guy Gardner, and mission specialists Mike Mullane, Jerry Ross, and William (Shep) Shepard.

From $12 Top to...

Top Prices for Super Bowl Tickets:

Super Bowl	Maximum Ticket Price
I-III	$ 12
IV-VIII	$ 15
IX-XI	$ 20
XII-XIV	$ 30
XV-XVII	$ 40
XVIII-XIX	$ 60
XX-XXI	$ 75
XXII-XXIII	$100
XXIV	$125
XXV	$150

SUPER SPOILS

It always has paid to win the Super Bowl, now more than ever. Players on the team winning Super Bowl XXV each will receive $36,000. The loser's share is $18,000. Those amounts are more than twice what the players earned in Super Bowl I, when each Packer received $15,000 and each Chief received $7,500.

The winner's and loser's shares stayed at the 1967 levels until Super Bowl XII, when they increased to $18,000 and $9,000, respectively. The dollar amounts doubled to their current levels for Super Bowl XVII.

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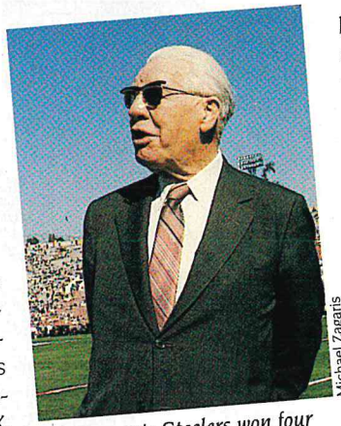
WINNING WAS A REAL ART



Michael Zagaris

Art Rooney's Steelers won four NFL titles in the 1970s.

Asked to recall his favorite Super Bowl moments, former NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle doesn't hesitate to mention the trophy presentation following Pittsburgh's 16-6 victory over Minnesota in Super Bowl IX, Pittsburgh's first appearance in an NFL Championship Game in more than four decades of existence.

"I am not ashamed to admit that I had tears of joy in my eyes when I presented the trophy to Art Rooney that January, 1975, day," Rozelle says. "No man ever deserved it more."

Except for a few months during World War II, the beloved Rooney was the sole owner of the Steelers from the franchise's inception in 1933 until his death in 1988, at age 87.

A native of Pittsburgh, Rooney bought the club in 1933 for $2,500, his one-day winnings at the racetrack, and named it the Pirates, after his favorite baseball team.

The Pirates struggled during their formative years, winning just 24 games their first eight seasons and prompting Rooney to sell the franchise following the 1940 season.

He bought into the Philadelphia Eagles, but was so homesick by April, 1941, that he swapped franchises to get back his Pirates, whom he renamed the Steelers.

Then he patiently waited for a winner.

The club produced only eight winning seasons over the next 31 years—until the watershed campaign of 1972. That year, the Steelers went 11-3 and won the AFC Central Division title.

"Buddy Parker said once that one day the Steelers are going to get lucky and when they do it'll last for ten years," Rooney said that year.

Parker was right...to a point. Although the Steelers did have good fortune on their side in 1972 (winning a playoff on Franco Harris's storied "Immaculate Reception"), they weren't lucky, they were good, dominating the 1970s with seven divisional titles, eight playoff appearances, and four Super Bowl titles.

HARRIS THE HAMMER

Franco Harris is the leading rusher in the Super Bowl, having compiled 354 yards in four games. Harris's 158-yard effort in Super Bowl IX helped the long-suffering Pittsburgh franchise win its first NFL championship.

It wasn't easy, though. Harris went into the line 34 times against Minnesota's Purple People Eaters in a rough-and-tumble game that was typical of the era. While Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain defense stuffed Minnesota's offense, the Steelers' offense used Harris as a sledgehammer to control the ball. Pittsburgh had an opportunity to win its first championship, and the Steelers weren't taking any chances. So they kept giving it to Harris, who was particularly devastating in the second half, rushing for 97 yards and 1 touchdown on 22 carries.

Harris earned MVP honors, and went on to play in three more Super Bowls, scoring 2 touchdowns against the Rams in XIV.

SUPER SPEAK

"I don't care for the man. He makes more money than I do, and he don't have no teeth."

—Dallas linebacker **Thomas Henderson** on Pittsburgh linebacker Jack Lambert

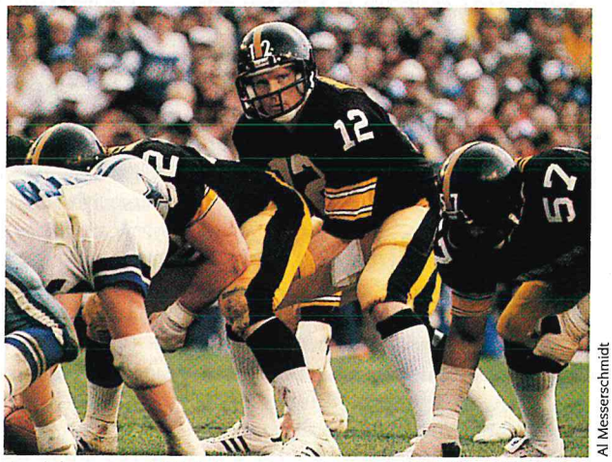
He Knew How to Spell W-I-N

Even after he won two Super Bowls, the words most often used to describe Pittsburgh quarterback Terry Bradshaw were not "champion" or "all-pro." Usually he was depicted as being "dumb."

"He couldn't spell cat if you spotted him the 'c' and the 'a,'" Dallas linebacker Thomas Henderson said before Super Bowl XIII. The Steelers, if Bradshaw's critics were to be believed, won in spite of their quarterback.

On a hot, humid afternoon in Miami's Orange Bowl, Bradshaw, a nine-year veteran, quieted the skeptics. The Cowboys hit him hard, forcing 2 fumbles and knocking him down several times. But he got up each time, and, despite a painful injury to his left shoulder, kept firing strikes through the heart of the Doomsday II defense. A perfect corner throw to John Stallworth resulted in a 28-yard touchdown for Pittsburgh's first score. Later, Bradshaw gave the Steelers a 21-14 halftime lead when he hit Rocky Bleier on a 7-yard touchdown pass.

Bradshaw's play-calling was superb. He caught Dallas in a blitz at the Cowboys' 22 on third-and-9 in the fourth quarter and gave the ball to Harris, who rambled 22 yards through the surprised Dallas defense for the touchdown that produced a 28-17 lead.



Al Messerschmidt

Bradshaw earned MVP honors—and respect—for his performances in Super Bowls XIII and XIV.

After the Steelers recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff, Bradshaw immediately threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Lynn Swann. It was a high throw in the middle of the end zone—a perfect pass, because only Swann could catch it.

Swann's touchdown proved to be the difference as the Steelers won 35-31. Bradshaw completed 17 of 30 passes for 318 yards and a then-record 4 touchdowns.

A year later, Bradshaw passed for 309 yards and 2 touchdowns to earn his second consecutive MVP award, rallying the Steelers to a 31-19 victory over the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl XIV.

Bradshaw's most telling quality was his

Richard Gentile

Swann and Stallworth made the Super Bowl their personal stage.

ability to produce in the fourth quarter. After the Vikings pulled within 9-6 in IX, he directed a 66-yard drive that culminated in a touchdown pass to Larry Brown. In X, the Steelers' offense produced 12 fourth-quarter points, including Bradshaw's 64-yard touchdown throw to Swann that gave Pittsburgh a 21-10 lead en route to a 21-17 victory. The Steelers scored 14 points in the fourth quarters of both XIII and XIV.

Smooth Operators

Throughout the Steelers' dynasty, two names always went together: Swann and Stallworth.

The greatest tandem since Astaire and Rogers, Lynn Swann and John Stallworth were a devastating pair of receivers for the Team of the 1970s. This was particularly evident in three of the Steelers' Super Bowl victories.

The graceful Swann put on a display in Super Bowl X that was more worthy of *Giselle* than the NFL. Against the Cowboys, Swann caught 4 passes for 161 yards to earn MVP honors. His first catch was a 32-yard effort along the sideline that set up Pittsburgh's first touchdown. Running stride for stride on the outside of Dallas cornerback Mark Washington, Swann reached inside of Washington to snatch the ball. He then was able to twist his body in the air so he landed inbounds.

In the second quarter, while falling to the turf with a Dallas defender all over him, Swann kept his concentration to make a spectacular 53-yard juggling catch.

In the fourth quarter, seeing that he had single coverage, he altered his pass route and ran a fly pattern. Terry Bradshaw lofted a pass to Swann, who caught it at the 5 and ran in for a 64-yard touchdown pass. The scoring play gave Pittsburgh a 21-10 lead. The Steelers went on to win 21-17.

In Super Bowl XIII, Swann had another big game, catching 7 passes for 124 yards, including an 18-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter that gave Pittsburgh a 35-17 lead. The Steelers defeated the Cowboys again 35-31.

The next year, Swann caught 5 passes for 79 yards, including a 47-yard touchdown early in the third quarter to give Pittsburgh a 17-13 lead over the Los Angeles Rams.

Though often overshadowed by Swann, Stallworth came into his own in Super Bowls XIII and XIV. Against Dallas in XIII, he scored Pittsburgh's first touchdown on a leaping 28-yard catch in the corner of the end zone. Later, after the Steelers had fallen behind 14-7, he took a 10-yard pass and turned it into a 75-yard touchdown that tied the score.

In XIV, Stallworth had just one catch entering the fourth quarter. Trailing 19-17, Pittsburgh called 60-Prevent-Slot-Hook-And-Go, a play designed to go deep. It hadn't worked in practice all week, and when the play had been called earlier in the game, Bradshaw had changed it because he had so little confidence in it.

But it worked this time. Stallworth caught Bradshaw's pass just over the outstretched fingers of Rams defensive back Rod Perry and outran the secondary for a 73-yard touchdown and a 24-19 lead. Later, Stallworth caught a 45-yard pass to set up the Steelers' final touchdown in their 31-19 win.

Pittsburgh's Architect

When 37-year-old Chuck Noll took over as head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1969, Pittsburgh had not had a championship team in the 36-year history of the franchise.

Al Messerschmidt

Noll is the only head coach to win four Super Bowls.

Despite a 1-13 record in his first season, Noll didn't panic. He stuck with his plan to build the Steelers through the draft. Rookie defensive linemen Joe Greene and L.C. Greenwood had shown promise, and the 1970 draft crop included quarterback Terry Bradshaw and cornerback Mel Blount.

The 1971 draft produced six starters, and 1972 brought Franco Harris and a host of valuable reserves. In Harris's rookie year, the Steelers got their first postseason victory. But to get to the next level—the Super Bowl—the Steelers would need one more infusion of players.

And they got it. Pittsburgh's 1974 draft has been called one of the greatest ever, and with good reason. Noll selected wide receivers Lynn Swann and John Stallworth, linebacker Jack Lambert, and center Mike Webster. In addition, he signed safety Donnie Shell as a free agent. Noll's charges came together in an awesome defensive unit that stuffed Minnesota in Super Bowl IX to give Pittsburgh its first title. They came back the next year and won again, defeating Dallas with an intimidating defense and the brilliance of Swann.

What made the Steelers successful in the early 1970s—running and defense—wouldn't necessarily work in the late 1970s. Rules changes opened up the passing game, and the Steelers adapted. The defense still was there, but in Super Bowls XIII and XIV, it was the Steelers' explosive passing game that prevailed.

The only coach to win four Super Bowls, Noll has outlasted almost all of his contemporaries. In an occupation not known for its job security, Noll just completed his twenty-second year as the Steelers' head coach. He is the fifth-winningest coach in NFL history.

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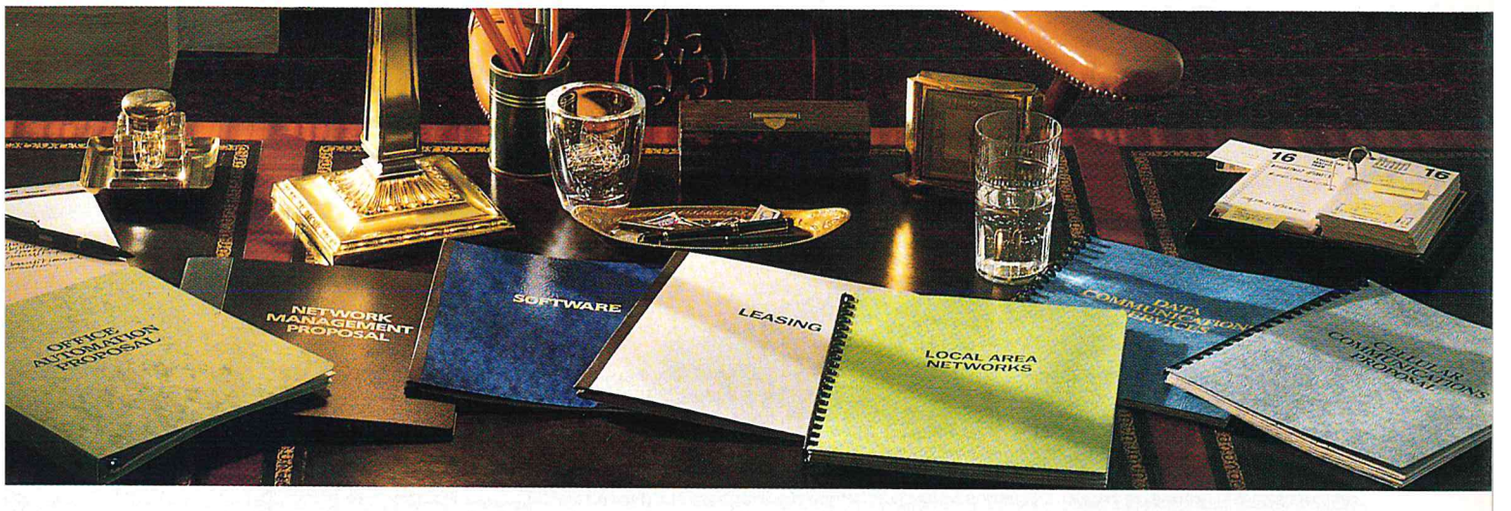

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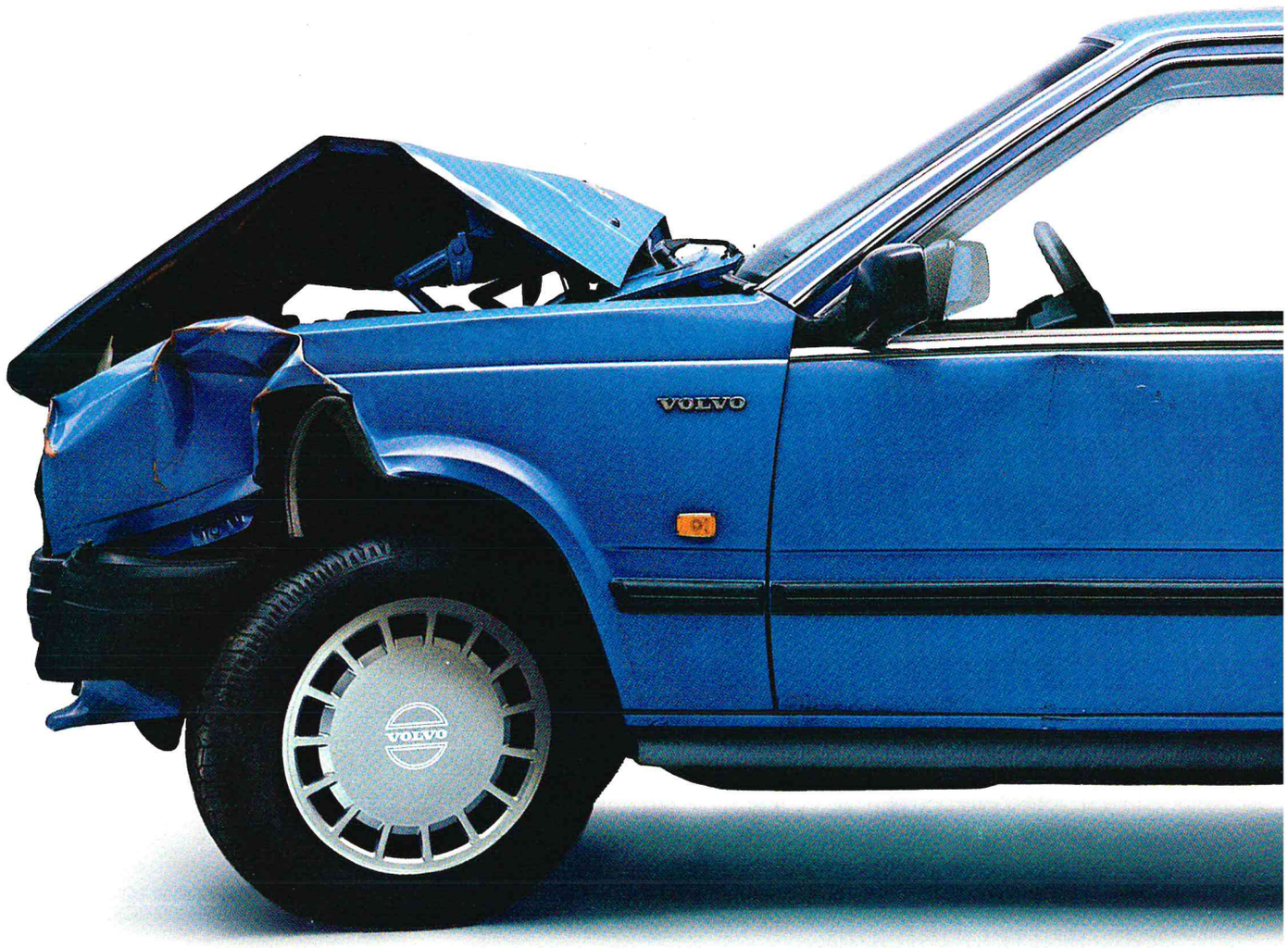

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GILDING THE LILLY

After Jim O'Brien's field goal with five seconds remaining gave Baltimore a 16-13 victory in Super Bowl V, Bob Lilly threw his helmet 50 yards. There were 10 years of frustration behind it.

When Dallas drafted Lilly in 1961, the franchise was entering its second season. A defensive tackle out of Texas Christian, Lilly was the club's first first-round draft choice. He played on losing Cowboys teams for four seasons before Dallas posted a .500 record in 1965.

Manny Rubio

Agony of defeat: Lilly goes deep with his helmet.

The team continued its rise, advancing to the NFL Championship Game in 1966, though they lost 34-27 to the Green Bay Packers. That was okay, the Cowboys thought. We're young, we'll be back.

But as Lilly stood on the field in January, 1971, ready to fire his helmet, he wasn't so young anymore, and his chances were running out. The Cowboys had lost to the Packers again in the 1967 NFL Championship Game, then lost to Cleveland in the 1968 and 1969 Eastern Conference title games. Finally, following the 1970 season, they had advanced to the Super Bowl. But the team that couldn't win the big one still couldn't win the big one—at least not for another year.

Landry quietly went to five Super Bowls.

In Super Bowl VI, the frustration finally ended for Lilly and the Cowboys as they defeated Miami 24-3.

Original Cowboy

From the day he took over as head coach of the expansion Cowboys in 1960, Tom Landry began molding Dallas his own way.

Building a winner from scratch was difficult, as the Cowboys suffered through five losing seasons.

When they finally reached the championship game in 1966, they lost. And after losing two NFL championship games, one Super Bowl, and another playoff game, many wondered whether Landry was too aloof, more technician than problem-solver.

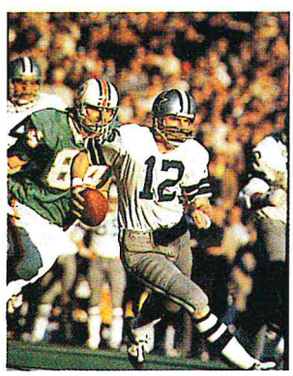
SUPER SPEAK

"Evidently."

—Dallas running back **Duane Thomas**, a silent man in the week before Super Bowl VI, when asked whether opponents were deceived by his speed

In 1971, Landry changed that perception. He dealt with a quarterback controversy involving Roger Staubach and Craig Morton, he worked hard to quiet the turbulent attitude of embattled running back Duane Thomas, and he turned team dissension into a winning attitude.

Everything went right. Landry's system was in high gear and the Cowboys had a nine-game winning streak under Staubach entering Super Bowl VI. Nothing changed on a cold January day in New Orleans. The defense punished the Dolphins, limiting them to 182 yards in total offense and forcing 3 turnovers. The Cowboys' offense picked apart the Dolphins, with MVP Staubach and Thomas (95 yards and 1 touchdown) leading the way.



Malcolm Emmons

Staubach avoids tacklers.

Landry and his ubiquitous hat spent 29 years (1960-88) on the Dallas sidelines. He took the Cowboys to three more Super Bowls, winning Super Bowl XII. Landry popularized the Shotgun, spread offensive formations, and multiple-set offenses. The Cowboys not only were Tom Landry's team, they became "America's Team."

MIRACLE WORKER

From the "Hail Mary" to numerous other answered prayers, Roger Staubach was legendary for his ability to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Twenty-three times in his career Staubach brought the Cowboys from behind to win, including 14 times in the final two minutes.

The Cowboys needed all of Staubach's heroics to get to Super Bowl X, as they used the Hail Mary pass to defeat Minnesota. But he didn't have enough magic to conjure up a victory against Pittsburgh. Trailing 21-10, Staubach threw a touchdown pass with two minutes to play to pull Dallas within 21-17. The Cowboys got the ball back and Staubach had them on the Pittsburgh 38. But on this occasion he ran out of time, and his desperation pass was intercepted to end one of the best Super Bowls.

Staubach ran out of time in Super Bowl XIII as well. Dallas fell behind Pittsburgh 35-17 in the fourth quarter before Staubach threw 2 touchdown passes to make it 35-31. But Dallas's last gasp was snuffed out when Pittsburgh recovered an onside kick in the final minute.

In Super Bowls VI and XII, however, the Cowboys didn't need miracles to win. Staubach earned MVP honors in Super Bowl VI by throwing 2 touchdown passes as Dallas defeated Miami 24-3, and he also threw a touchdown pass in a 27-10 win over Denver in Super Bowl XII.

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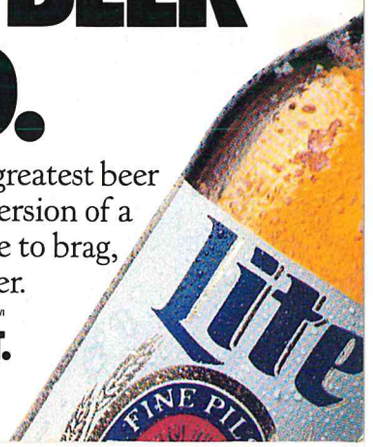

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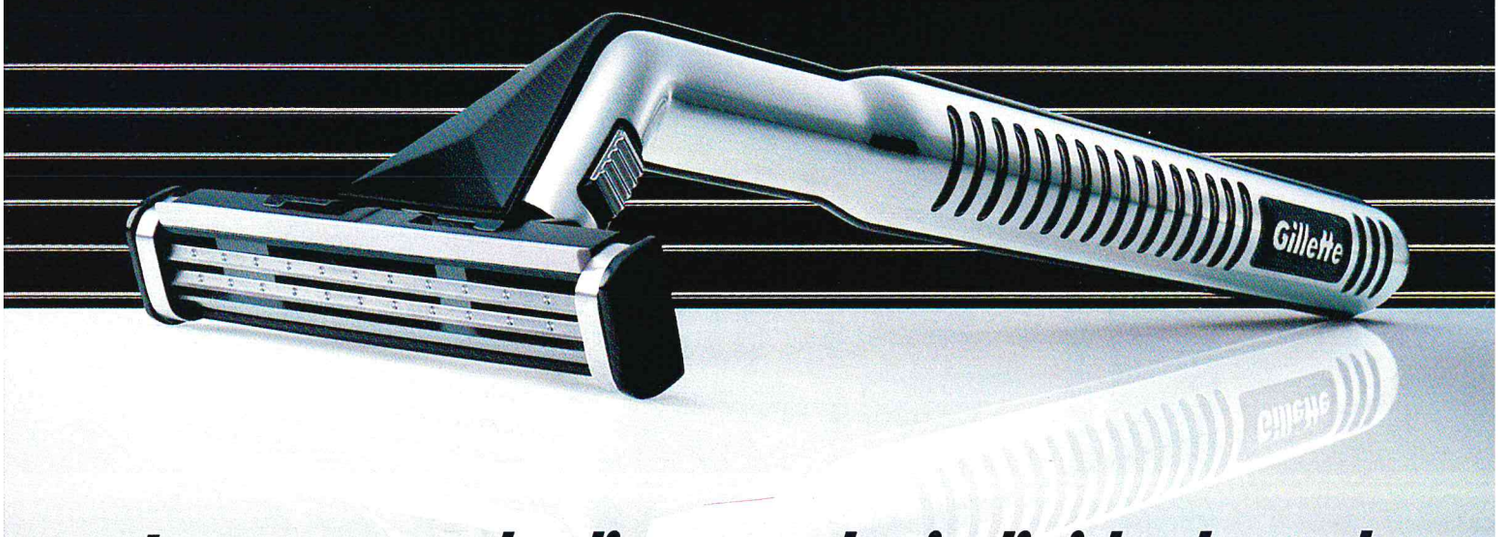

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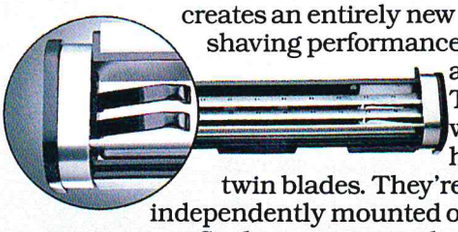

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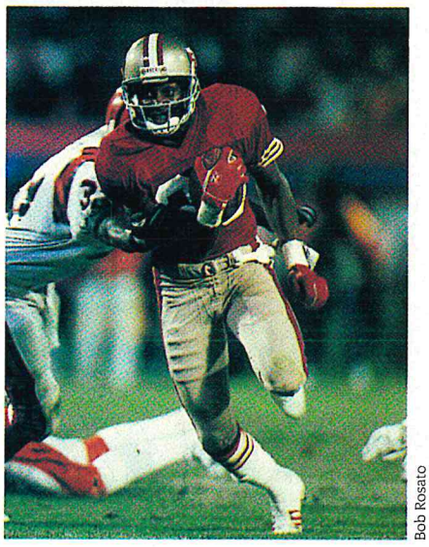
Throwing Rice



Bob Rosato

Rice's 27-yard catch-and-run set up the deciding score in the 49ers' win in XXIII.

Early in the week before Super Bowl XXIII, 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice sprained an ankle.

Rice didn't practice for three days and he hobbled around all week...but by Sunday he was walking off with the Super Bowl's most-valuable-player award.

"This is something I will remember for the rest of my life," Rice said after the 49ers' dramatic 20-16 victory over the Bengals, a game in which he set a Super Bowl record with 215 receiving yards. Many of his record-tying 11 catches were acrobatic, à la former Steelers great and Super Bowl X MVP Lynn Swann.

"Lynn Swann was an idol," Rice said. "It would amaze me how he could fly through the air and make those catches. I'll never forget the one versus Dallas [in X]. It was the greatest catch I've ever seen."

Neither will many forget Rice's fourth-quarter touchdown that tied XXIII at 13-13.

After the Bengals' Stanford Jennings raced 93 yards with a kickoff return to give his team a 13-6 advantage late in the third quarter, Rice got the 49ers going by catching a 31-yard pass from Joe Montana one play after the ensuing kickoff.

Three plays later, Rice caught a pass at the Bengals' 5 and, as his momentum carried him out of bounds, broke the plane of the goal line by extending the ball inside the pylon to complete a 14-yard scoring play.

SUPER SPEAK

"Even if we had to pick up Joe [Montana] en masse and carry him over the goal line, we were going to get a touchdown."

—San Francisco center **Randy Cross** on the 49ers' game-winning 92-yard drive in Super Bowl XXIII

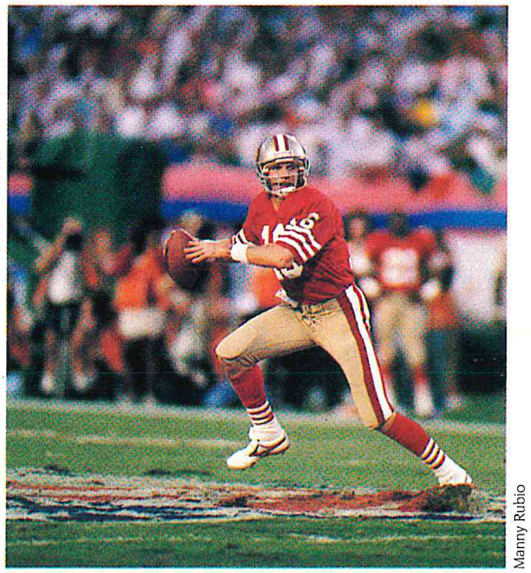
Later, during the 49ers' 92-yard march to the winning touchdown in the final minute, Rice made the play of the game by turning a crossing pattern into a 27-yard gain when the 49ers faced a second-and-20 from the Cincinnati 45.

Ironically, Rice was a decoy on the game-winning touchdown pass moments later, going in motion and opening the defense enough to allow John Taylor to catch the 10-yard scoring pass from Montana.

"Rice had a legitimately sprained ankle," said 49ers center Randy Cross. "To make a comeback like that was amazing."

While the Bengals found out what Rice can do when hobbled, the Broncos were burned by a healthy Rice in Super Bowl XXIV.

He caught 7 passes for 148 yards in that game, with a record 3 going for scores in San Francisco's 55-10 rout. After just two games, he's already the Super Bowl career record holder with 4 receiving touchdowns. And with 363 receiving yards, he is just 1 yard behind the record held by Swann, his idol, who played in four games.



Manny Rubio

Montana sprints out to pass against the Bengals.

Best of the Best

Super Bowl Most Valuable Players

Super Bowl	Player, Team	Statistics
I	QB Bart Starr, Green Bay	16 of 23 for 250 yards, 2 TDs
II	QB Bart Starr, Green Bay	13 of 24 for 202 yards, 1 TD
III	QB Joe Namath, N.Y. Jets	17 of 28 for 206 yards
IV	QB Len Dawson, Kansas City	12 of 17 for 142 yards, 1 TD
V	LB Chuck Howley, Dallas	2 interceptions for 22 yards
VI	QB Roger Staubach, Dallas	12 of 19 for 119 yards, 2 TDs
VII	S Jake Scott, Miami	2 interceptions for 63 yards
VIII	RB Larry Csonka, Miami	33 attempts for 145 yards, 2 TDs
IX	RB Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	34 attempts for 158 yards, 1 TD
X	WR Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	4 receptions for 161 yards, 1 TD
XI	WR Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland	4 receptions for 79 yards
XII	DE Harvey Martin & DT Randy White, Dallas	Combined for 7 tackles and 3 sacks
XIII	QB Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	17 of 30 for 318 yards, 4 TDs
XIV	QB Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	14 of 21 for 309 yards, 2 TDs
XV	QB Jim Plunkett, Oakland	13 of 21 for 261 yards, 3 TDs
XVI	QB Joe Montana, San Francisco	14 of 22 for 157 yards, 1 TD
XVII	RB John Riggins, Washington	38 attempts for 166 yards, 1 TD
XVIII	RB Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	20 attempts for 191 yards, 2 TDs
XIX	QB Joe Montana, San Francisco	24 of 35 for 331 yards, 3 TDs
XX	DE Richard Dent, Chicago	1.5 sacks, 2 forced fumbles, 1 pass defensed
XXI	QB Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants	22 of 25 for 268 yards, 3 TDs
XXII	QB Doug Williams, Washington	18 of 29 for 340 yards, 4 TDs
XXIII	WR Jerry Rice, San Francisco	11 receptions for 215 yards, 1 TD
XXIV	QB Joe Montana, San Francisco	22 of 29 for 297 yards, 5 TDs

'M' *as in* Montana *...and* Magic

To appreciate where Joe Montana stands today, it helps to remember where he was just a couple of years ago.

The golden-boy quarterback led the San Francisco 49ers to victories in Super Bowls XVI and XIX, winning MVP honors each time. Nothing could stop him, it seemed, not even a ruptured disk in his back in 1986. Montana made a remarkable recovery from the career-threatening injury and went on to throw 31 touchdown passes in 1987.

A year later, however, Montana was thought to be washed up. He had played a subpar game in the 49ers' 36-24 loss to Minnesota in the 1987 playoffs. Then the 49ers got off to a disappointing 6-5 start in 1988,

SUPER SPEAK

"It got to the point where, being a Christian and being a person who loves people, I actually felt sorry for the Broncos."

—San Francisco offensive tackle **Bubba Paris** on Super Bowl XXIV

and a mostly healthy Montana often was replaced by backup Steve Young.

The 49ers' quarterback issue finally was resolved, and, with Montana at the controls, the team won four consecutive games to overtake the Rams and win the NFC West. Then, in the playoffs, San Francisco avenged its defeat to Minnesota, crushing the Vikings 34-9. The following week, the 49ers won the NFC Championship Game by routing Chicago 28-3.

Montana then capped his "resurrection" with one of his finest hours. Trailing the Bengals 16-13 with 3:10 remaining in Super Bowl XXIII, Montana drove the 49ers 92 yards to the winning touchdown, a 10-yard pass to John Taylor with 34 seconds left.

Montana picked up his third MVP award last year in Super Bowl XXIV, completing 22 of 29 passes for 297 yards and 5 touchdowns as the 49ers defeated the Broncos 55-10. San Francisco became the first Super Bowl winner to repeat since Pittsburgh in XIV.

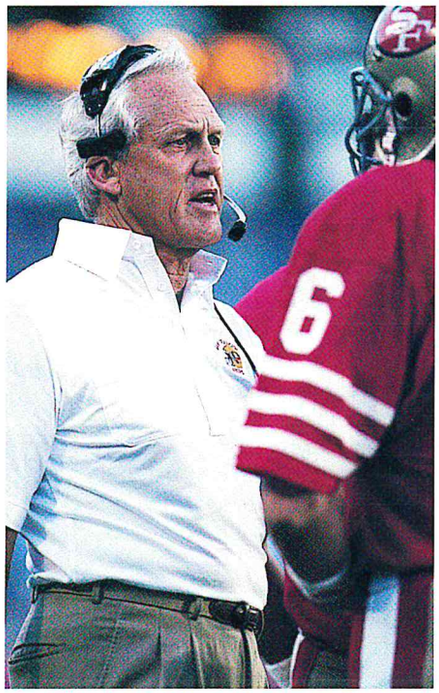
The 49ers and Montana hold numerous Super Bowl records, including a tie with the Pittsburgh Steelers for most victories. Montana is the top Super Bowl passer, having completed 68 percent of his passes for 1,142 yards and 11 touchdowns. He has not thrown an interception.

'W' as in Walsh... and Win

All coaches who win a Super Bowl have the genius label attached to them by hyperbolic sportswriters or broadcasters. With Bill Walsh, however, it seemed to fit.

Walsh, a studious figure with a calm demeanor, looked like a college professor. He guided the 49ers to three Super Bowl titles and laid the groundwork for a fourth.

A proponent of using the short-passing game to control the ball, Walsh's trademark was his "script." At the start of each game, regardless of the score, the 49ers would run 25 or more plays that Walsh had chosen beforehand. In Super Bowl XVI, San Francisco's first 27 plays produced touchdown drives of 68 and 92 yards.



Bob Rosato

Professor Walsh turned the previously hapless 49ers into the team of the 1980s.

Walsh also had a keen eye for talent. When he took over in 1979, the 49ers were coming off a 2-14 season. In the next three years, he drafted Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott, players who would form the nucleus of San Francisco's championship teams. Other draft picks helped, but Walsh also surrounded Montana and Lott with free agents and trade acquisitions who proved to be good enough to win an NFL title in 1981.

SUPER SPEAK

"I developed Sam [Wyche] right to the upper reaches of mediocrity."

—San Francisco coach **Bill Walsh** on his former pupil, Cincinnati coach Sam Wyche, prior to Super Bowl XXIII

After winning Super Bowl XVI with this largely anonymous cast, Walsh used draft picks, trades, and free agents to build an improved team that went 18-1 in 1984. The 49ers capped that season with a victory over Miami in Super Bowl XIX.

Under Walsh's direction, the 49ers continued to improve their personnel and refine their system, resulting in victories in XXIII (Walsh's last game) and XXIV (with George Seifert in charge).

SUPER Drive

One of the Super Bowl's most exciting moments fittingly was provided by the Super Bowl's finest quarterback, Joe Montana. In XXIII, Montana drove the 49ers 92 yards in the final 3:10 to give them a 20-16 win over Cincinnati in only the second Super Bowl decided in the final minute (game V was the other).

"The Drive," play by exciting play:

First down-10 yards to go from San Francisco 8-yard line (3:10 remaining)—Montana 8-yard pass to Roger Craig over the middle.

2-2 from SF 16 (2:51)—Montana 7-yard pass to John Frank over the middle.

1-10 from SF 23 (2:33)—Montana 7-yard pass to Jerry Rice on the right sideline. Rice goes out of bounds.

2-3 from SF 30 (2:28)—Draw play, Craig 1-yard run.

3-2 from SF 31 (2:00)—Craig 4-yard run off right tackle. Montana calls time out.

1-10 from SF 35 (1:54)—Montana 17-yard pass to Rice on the left sideline. Rice goes out of bounds.

1-10 from C 48 (1:49)—Montana 13-yard pass to Craig over the middle.

1-10 from C 35 (1:27)—Montana throws the ball away, out of bounds.

2-10 from C 35 (1:22)—Montana 5-yard pass to Craig. Play nullified and 49ers penalized 10 yards for illegal man downfield.

2-20 from C 45 (1:17)—Montana 27-yard pass to Rice running a crossing pattern over the middle.

1-10 from C 18 (:52)—Montana 8-yard pass to Craig over the middle. Montana calls time out.

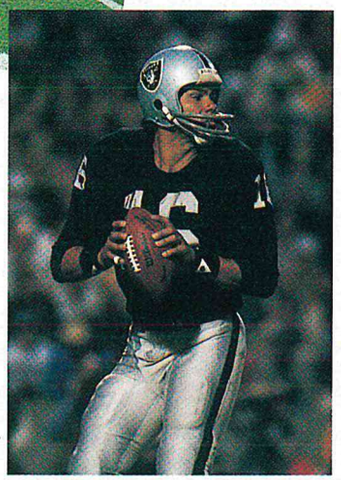
1-10 from C 10 (:39)—Montana 10-yard pass to John Taylor in the middle of the end zone, touchdown.

Bob Rosato

Taylor hauls in winning touchdown.

Peter Read Miller

Davis (left) built Super Bowl teams in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s with reclamation projects like Plunkett (below).



Manny Rubio

Color Him Silver and Black

Al Davis's official title is President of the Managing General Partner. While that unwieldy title may be what the club wants to call him, it in no way conveys what Davis is to the Raiders. He is, quite simply, The Boss, the essence of the Raiders.

Davis's Raiders have been to the Super Bowl four times. Their three victories are surpassed only by Pittsburgh and San Francisco.

Davis has crafted the Raiders in his own image, a menacing group in black jerseys and silver helmets. His teams are known for attacking—on offense and on defense. He is not a man who provokes ambivalence.

Indeed, he often is at the center of controversy, whether he is moving his team from Oakland to Los Angeles or waging a war on the NFL while he was commissioner of the AFL. During Davis's short tenure in charge of the AFL, he led an aggressive campaign to sign top NFL quarterbacks such as John Brodie away from the rival league.

The result was the merger between the AFL and NFL. After three months, Davis resigned as AFL commissioner and returned to the Raiders, this time as a part-owner (he had coached the team from 1963-65).

Since Davis joined the Raiders in 1963, they are the winningest franchise in pro football. He has done it with reclamation projects such as John Matuszak, Jim Plunkett, and Todd Christensen. He has done it by shunning conventional wisdom, making Ray Guy the only punter ever drafted in the first round. And he has done it with marquee players such as Marcus Allen and Cliff Branch.

SUPER SPEAK

"If Tom Flores sent home every guy on this football team who screwed up, he'd be the only guy on the sideline."

—Raiders guard **Gene Upshaw**, when asked at Super Bowl XV about Philadelphia coach Dick Vermeil's promise to send home any player who broke team rules.

Quit? NEVER!

If Raiders quarterback Jim Plunkett seemed undisturbed by the pressure of the Super Bowl, it was because he knew there were worse things in life than losing.

Like quitting, which was something Plunkett didn't do. Because he didn't, a career thought to be in ruins was resurrected in silver and black.

The son of blind parents, the victim of a neck tumor as a teenager, Plunkett's story was inspirational from the start. He led Stanford to victory in the Rose Bowl and was the first player selected in the 1971 NFL draft.

Plunkett threw 19 touchdown passes for the New England Patriots as a rookie, but he mostly crashed and burned after that. He seemed to incur constant injuries with the hapless Patriots. In 1976, just as New England was on the verge of respectability, it traded Plunkett to the equally hapless San Francisco 49ers. For two seasons, he suffered more of the same indignities. Finally, the 49ers released him in the 1978 preseason.

He thought about retiring, but then he signed with the Raiders, the NFL's halfway house, and spent the 1978 season on the bench healing his battered body. He threw 15 passes in 1979 as a backup to Kenny Stabler.

In 1980, Oakland traded Stabler to Houston for Dan Pastorini, and installed Pastorini as the starter. Plunkett asked to be traded, but Al Davis said no.

It was the best trade Davis never made. Pastorini went down with a broken leg in the fifth game, and Plunkett came on to rescue the 2-3 Raiders, leading them to 12 victories in 14 starts and into Super Bowl XV against Philadelphia.

With Plunkett calling the plays, the Raiders generated 377 yards in total offense. He completed 13 of 21 passes for 261 yards and 3 touchdowns, including a record 80-yard collaboration with Kenny King. He was named the game's most valuable player.

Three years later, Plunkett pulled off a similar feat. Replaced at midseason by Marc Wilson, Plunkett regained the starting role when Wilson went down with an injury. He then led the Los Angeles Raiders to nine victories in 10 games, including a 38-9 thrashing of the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl XVIII.

Plunkett called all the plays against the Redskins, too, completing 16 of 25 passes for 172 yards and 1 touchdown, with no interceptions. He threw a 50-yard bomb to Cliff Branch and, two plays later, hit Branch with a 12-yard scoring pass to give the Raiders a 14-0 second-quarter lead.

"The motto of our team is 'Pride and Poise,'" Hall-of-Fame guard Gene Upshaw said after the Raiders' victory over Philadelphia in Super Bowl XV. "Jim Plunkett represents the best of both."

SUPER SPEAK

"I'd run over my mother to win it [Super Bowl XVIII]."

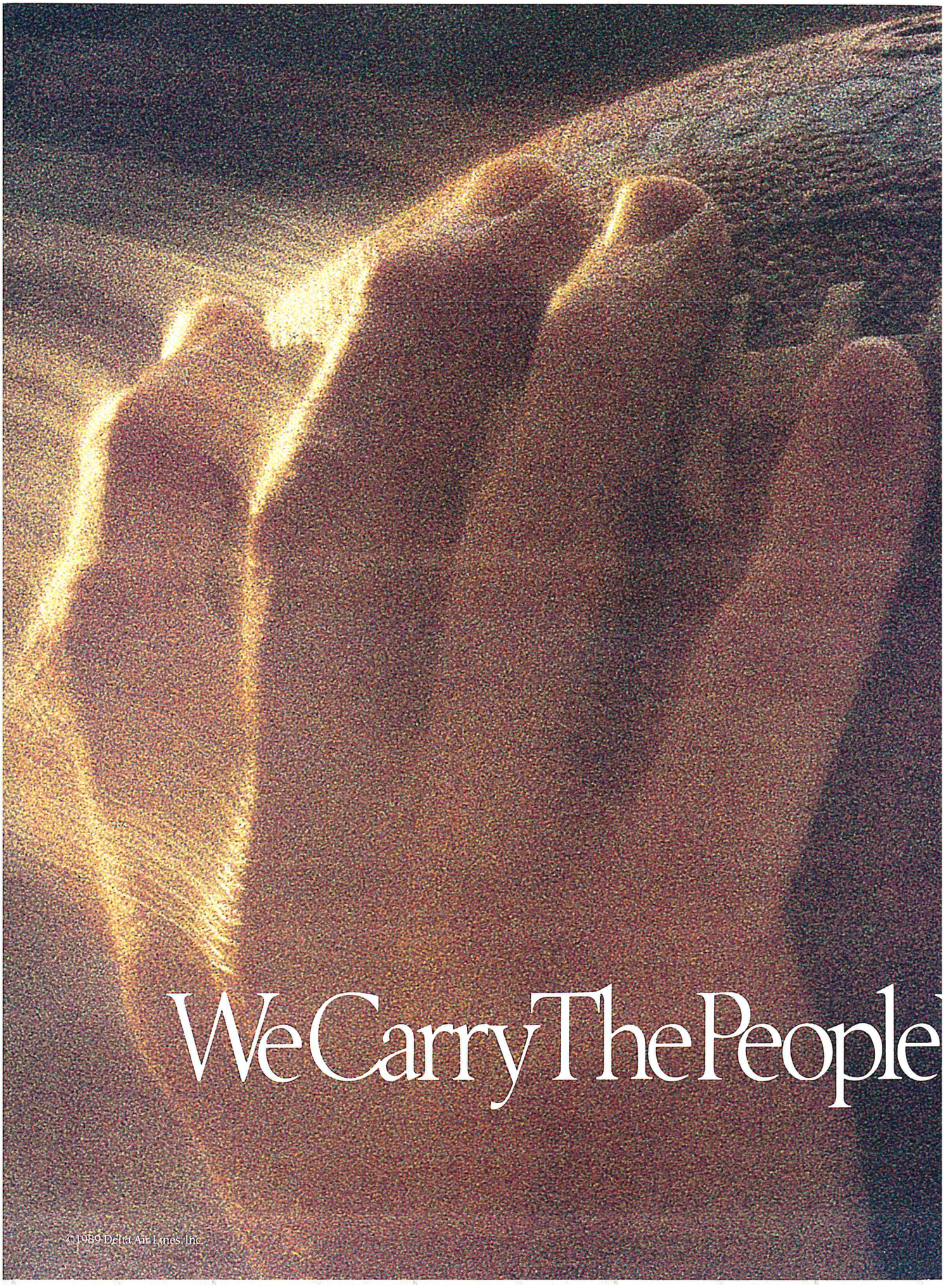
—Washington guard **Russ Grimm**

"I'd run over Grimm's mother, too."

—Raiders linebacker **Matt Millen**

Team of the Decades

The Raiders are the only team to have played in Super Bowls in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. As the Oakland Raiders, they lost to Green Bay in Super Bowl II in January, 1968. They won XI over Minnesota in 1977 and XV over Philadelphia in 1981. As the Los Angeles Raiders, they won Super Bowl XVIII over Washington in 1984.



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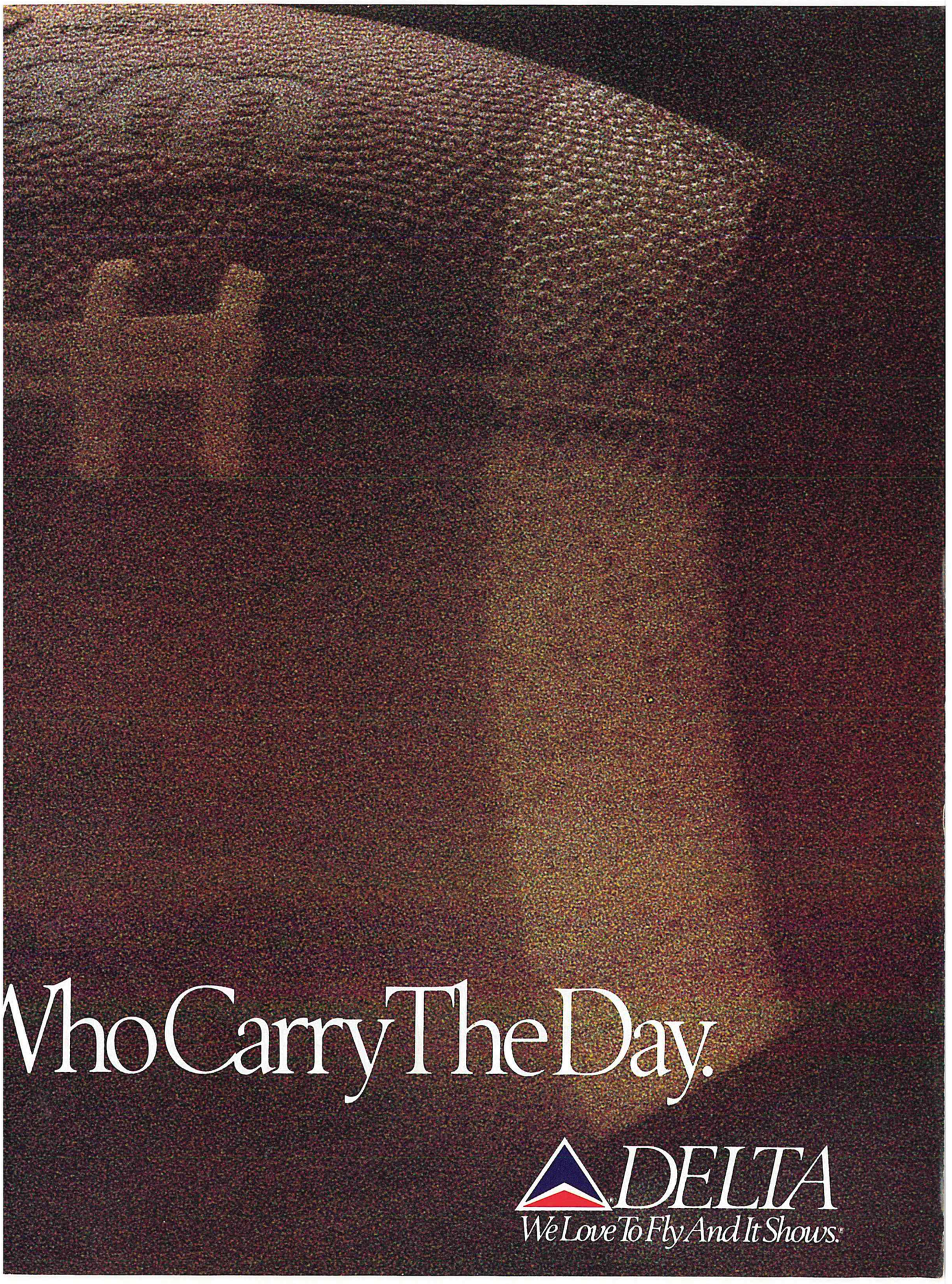
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SUPER BOWL ★THEN★

Darryl Norenberg

Shula's ability to adapt has enabled him to lead teams to six Super Bowls.

'S' as in Shula...and Success

Don Shula has coached in six Super Bowls, more than any other head coach. What is even more impressive is that he has taken teams to the Super Bowl in three decades—the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.

Shula has gotten there with a backup quarterback (Earl Morrall), with a quarterback who was better at running than passing (David Woodley), with brilliant defenses, and with leaky defenses. He coached the first team with two 1,000-yard rushers in the same season (Miami, 1972), and he coached the first quarterback to pass for 5,000 yards in a season (Dan Marino, 1984).

As the game has changed over the years, so has Shula.

Shula's teams hold records for fewest passes completed in a Super Bowl (4, in XVII), most passes completed (29, in XIX), fewest passes attempted (7, in VIII), and most passes attempted (50, in XIX).

His first Super Bowl team was the Baltimore Colts, who were shocked 16-7 by the Jets in III. After moving to Miami in 1970, Shula led the Dolphins to three consecutive Super Bowls, losing in VI and winning in VII and VIII. Miami's victory over Washington in VII gave the Dolphins a 17-0 record, the only perfect season in NFL history.

In the 1980s, Shula guided the Dolphins and the "Killer Bees" defense to Super Bowl XVII, where they lost to the Redskins. The Dolphins returned two years later on the arm of Dan Marino, losing to San Francisco in XIX. Shula is the only man to coach two different franchises into the Super Bowl.

CSONKA BOWLED 'EM OVER

His name evoked images of a big, burly guy who should play fullback. That's what Larry Csonka was, and that's the position he played.

The prototypical fullback, Csonka plowed over defenders for 11 years, 8 of them with the Miami Dolphins. Even though everybody knew he was going to get the ball, Csonka kept piling up the yards.

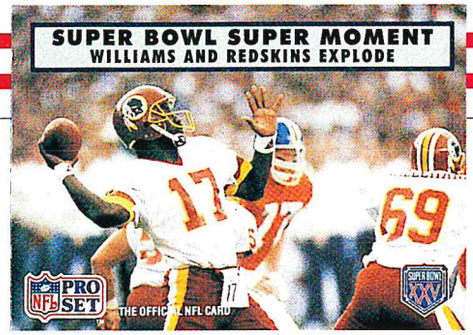
He appeared in three straight Super Bowls for the Dolphins. After a subpar performance in the Dolphins' loss in VI, Csonka redeemed himself by gaining 112 yards on 15 carries as Miami defeated Washington 14-7 in VII.

The next year, Csonka ran wild against the Vikings, rushing for 145 yards and 2 touchdowns on 33 carries to earn most-valuable-player honors. Miami won its second straight title 24-7.

SUPER SPEAK

"It was a cheap shot, but an honest cheap shot. He came right at me and threw an elbow right through my mask. I could see the game meant something to him."

—Miami running back **Larry Csonka** explaining how he got a black eye in Super Bowl VIII



FIREWORKS IN SAN DIEGO

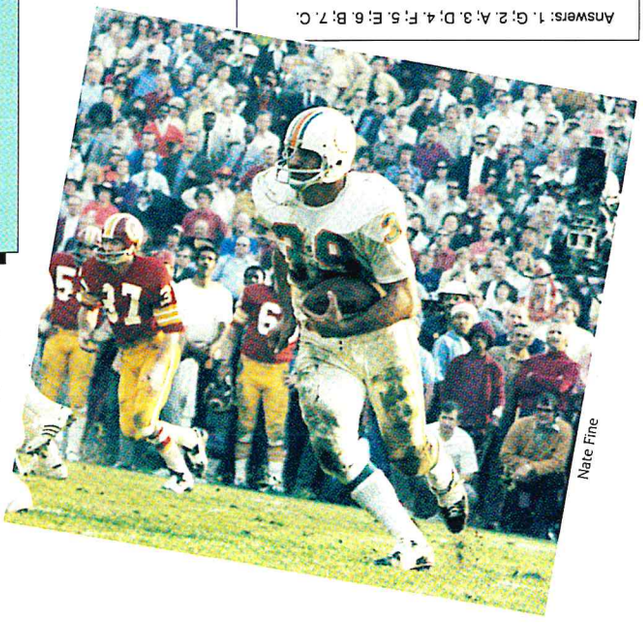
The Washington Redskins had the ball for just 5 minutes and 47 seconds in the second quarter of Super Bowl XXII against Denver in San Diego, but it was enough time to turn a 10-0 deficit into a 35-10 lead. The Redskins ran 18 plays, totaling 356 yards. Quarterback Doug Williams completed 9 of 11 passes for 228 yards and 4 touchdowns. Wide receiver Ricky Sanders caught 5 passes for 168 yards, including touchdowns of 80 and 50 yards. Running back Timmy Smith had 122 yards and a touchdown on 5 carries. Smith added a touchdown run in the fourth quarter, and the Redskins went on to win 42-10. Williams was named MVP, finishing with 18 completions in 29 attempts for 340 yards. Sanders had 9 receptions for 193 yards. Smith rushed for a record 204 yards.

The Name Game

Match the Nickname to the Super Bowl Team

NICKNAME	TEAM
1. Hogs	A. 1972 Dolphins
2. No-Name Defense	B. 1969 Vikings
3. Over-the-Hill Gang	C. 1982 Dolphins
4. Doomsday II	D. 1972 Redskins
5. Steel Curtain	E. 1978 Steelers
6. Purple People Eaters	F. 1977 Cowboys
7. Killer Bees	G. 1982 Redskins

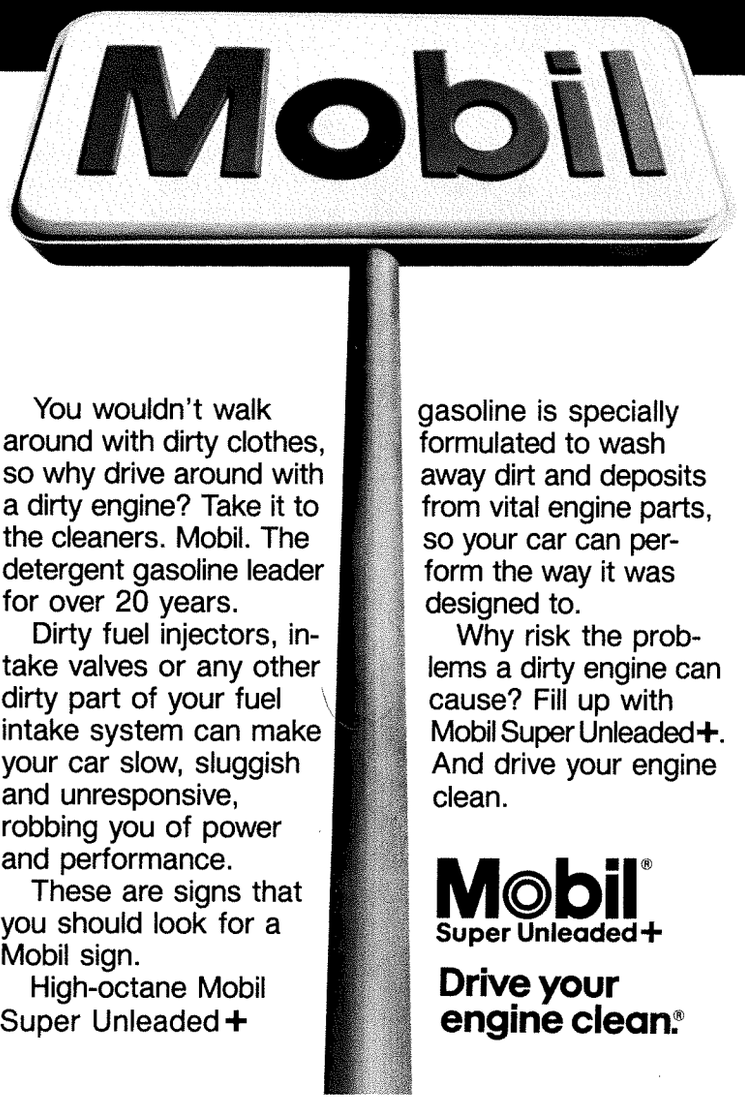
Answers: 1. G; 2. A; 3. D; 4. F; 5. E; 6. B; 7. C.



Nate Fine

Csonka bulldozed his way to 297 yards, placing him second on the Super Bowl career rushing list.

Take your dirty engine to the cleaners.



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Prime Ratings

On Thanksgiving Day, American families crowd around the turkey. On Christmas, they gather around the tree. And on Super Bowl Sunday, they're around the television set celebrating the country's biggest unofficial national holiday.

More than 109 million Americans watched Super Bowl XXIV between the 49ers and Broncos, making it the ninth-highest-rated program in television history (based on total number of viewers).

In fact, 9 of the top 10 TV programs of all time are Super Bowls, the lone exception being the final episode of "M*A*S*H." Super Bowl XX between the Bears and Patriots tops the list with 127 million viewers.

David Boss

Rivals meet before Super Bowl I kickoff: Paul Christman (left) of NBC chats with Frank Gifford of CBS.

TV Guide

Super Bowl	Network	Announcers	Rating	Share
I	CBS, NBC	CBS-Ray Scott and Jack Whitaker (play-by-play), Frank Gifford (analyst); NBC-Curt Gowdy (play-by-play), Paul Christman (analyst)	40.8	NA
II	CBS	Ray Scott (play-by-play), Jack Kemp and Pat Summerall (analysts)	36.8	68%
III	NBC	Curt Gowdy (play-by-play), Al DeRogatis and Kyle Rote (analysts)	36.0	70%
IV	CBS	Jack Buck (play-by-play), Frank Gifford and Pat Summerall (analysts)	39.4	69%
V	NBC	Curt Gowdy (play-by-play), Kyle Rote (analyst)	39.9	75%
VI	CBS	Ray Scott (play-by-play), Pat Summerall (analyst)	44.2	74%
VII	NBC	Curt Gowdy (play-by-play), Al DeRogatis (analyst)	42.7	72%
VIII	CBS	Ray Scott (play-by-play), Bart Starr and Pat Summerall (analysts)	41.6	73%
IX	NBC	Curt Gowdy (play-by-play), Al DeRogatis and Don Meredith (analysts)	42.4	72%
X	CBS	Pat Summerall (play-by-play), Tom Brookshier (analyst)	42.3	78%
XI	NBC	Curt Gowdy (play-by-play), Don Meredith (analyst)	44.4	73%
XII	CBS	Pat Summerall (play-by-play), Tom Brookshier (analyst)	47.2	67%
XIII	NBC	Curt Gowdy (play-by-play), John Brodie and Merlin Olsen (analysts)	47.1	74%
XIV	CBS	Pat Summerall (play-by-play), Tom Brookshier (analyst)	46.3	67%
XV	NBC	Dick Enberg (play-by-play), Merlin Olsen (analyst)	44.4	63%
XVI	CBS	Pat Summerall (play-by-play), John Madden (analyst)	49.1	73%
XVII	NBC	Dick Enberg (play-by-play), Merlin Olsen (analyst)	48.6	69%
XVIII	CBS	Pat Summerall (play-by-play), John Madden (analyst)	46.4	71%
XIX	ABC	Frank Gifford (play-by-play), Don Meredith and Joe Theismann (analysts)	46.4	63%
XX	NBC	Dick Enberg (play-by-play), Bob Griese and Merlin Olsen (analysts)	48.3	70%
XXI	CBS	Pat Summerall (play-by-play), John Madden (analyst)	45.8	66%
XXII	ABC	Al Michaels (play-by-play), Dan Dierdorf and Frank Gifford (analysts)	41.9	62%
XXIII	NBC	Dick Enberg (play-by-play), Merlin Olsen (analyst)	43.5	68%
XXIV	CBS	Pat Summerall (play-by-play), John Madden (analyst)	39.0	63%

Rating is based on the number of households with televisions tuned in to some or all of the telecast. Share is the percentage of households using televisions during the telecast that tuned in to to the game. For example, of the households that had their televisions on during Super Bowl XXIV, 63 percent were tuned in to the game. The top 10 televised sports events, based on ratings, all are Super Bowls.

Source: A.C. Nielsen

Crimestopper

On the day the Chiefs played the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV, Kansas City police reported just one burglary.

Naturally, they waited until halftime to question the suspect. But he asked the first question.

"What's the score?" he inquired of his interrogators.

Or, consider the plight of the woman in San Jose, California, who couldn't get anybody to attend her baby's baptism because it conflicted with Super Bowl VIII. "What did she expect?" one relative asked. "She knew the game was on."

20 x 25

A handful of media representatives has covered every game.

The select group, which meets every year at the Super Bowl site, includes 13 writers and 7 photographers.

The writers are Dick Connor, Art Daley, Mel Durslag, Larry Felser, Jerry Green, Jerry Izenberg, Dave Klein, Will McDonough, Norm Miller, Bob Oates, Ed Pope, Cooper Rollow, and John Steadman.

The photographers are John Biever, Vernon Biever, David Boss, Walter Iooss, Jr., Mickey Palmer, Dick Raphael, and Tony Tomsic.

NBC vs. CBS

From one camp prior to Super Bowl I: "Sure, it's our biggest game ever. The money is great, but we're concerned with pride, not money. We don't take them lightly. But remember this—we didn't come here to lose."

From the other: "This is a team effort and we've come a long way working as a team. And don't let anyone tell you this is just another game. We've never faced a more important one. We're representing every man who ever had anything to do with this league. We have great respect for them, but don't underrate us."

Packers and Chiefs coaches and players squaring off in a battle of cliches? Hardly. Those words came from opposing sides of another Battle of the first Super Bowl: CBS versus NBC.

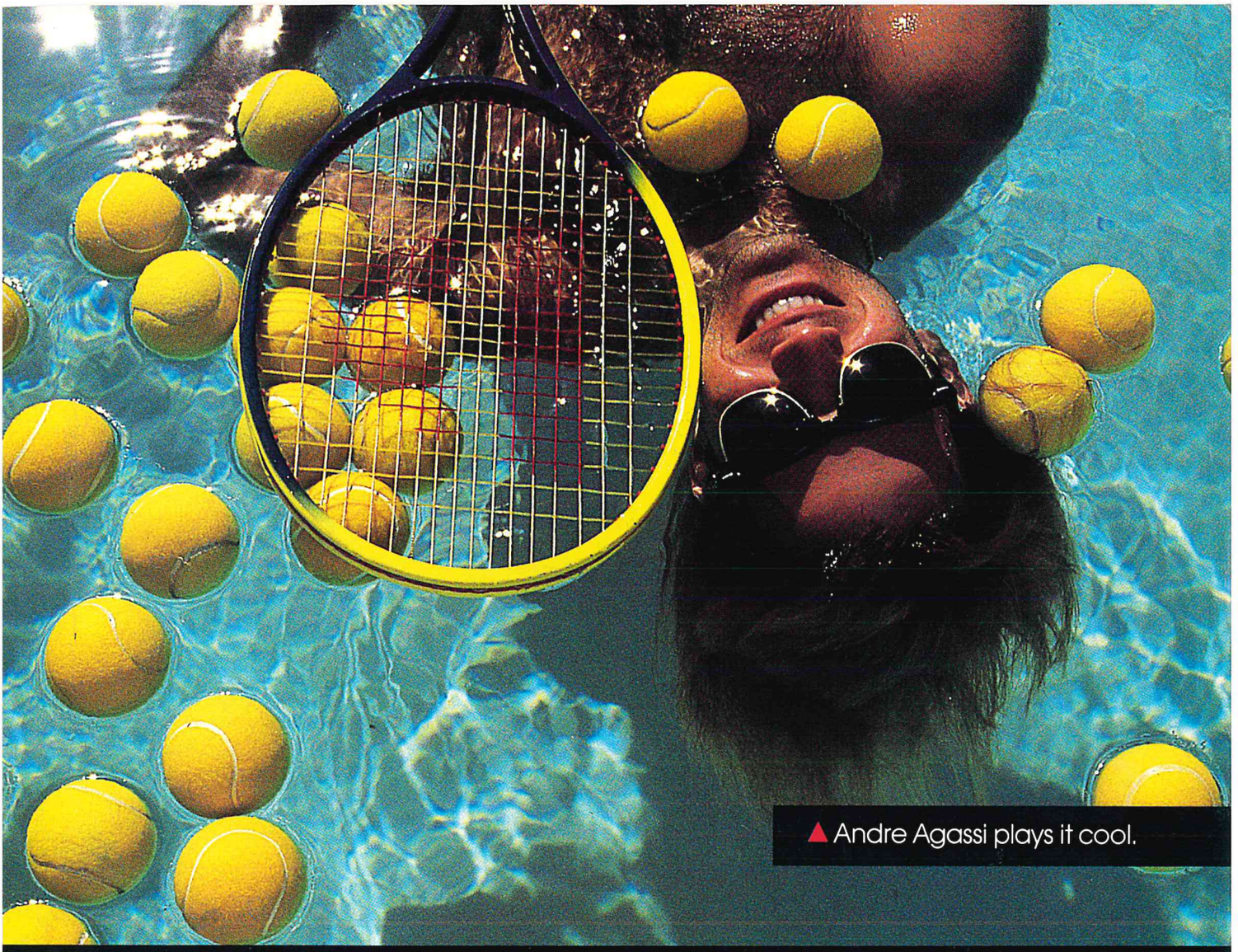
The only Super Bowl televised by two networks, the first game was seen on the networks of both the NFL (CBS) and the AFL (NBC).

The two shared the same feed while employing their own announcers. Jack Whitaker and Ray Scott handled play-by-play for CBS, going up against NBC's Curt Gowdy. Analysis was handled by Frank Gifford (CBS) and Paul Christman (NBC). Pat Summerall (CBS) and Charlie Jones (NBC) did pregame and postgame reports.

SUPER SPEAK

"If you were a tree, what tree would you be?"
—Reporter's question for Denver quarterback **John Elway** prior to Super Bowl XXII

"How long have you been a black quarterback?"
—Reporter's question for Washington quarterback **Doug Williams** prior to Super Bowl XXII



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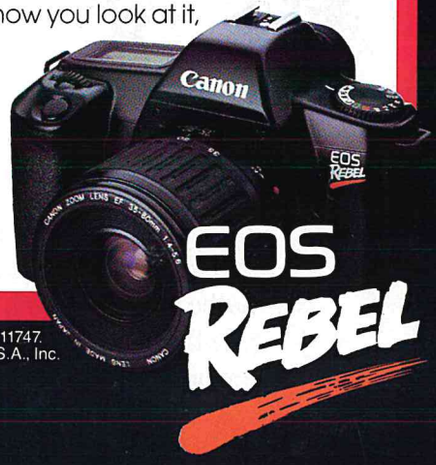

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SUPER BOWL

★THEN★

Hot Air Snafu

The extravaganzas that have become commonplace at Super Bowls haven't always gone according to plan. The most memorable snafu came at Super Bowl IV between Kansas City and Minnesota in New Orleans.

Before the game, two hot-air balloons (one representing the Vikings and one representing the Chiefs) were supposed to race. Before the race, however, the Vikings' balloon got stuck on a loudspeaker pole in Tulane Stadium and went into the stands, stranding the balloonist, George Stokes.

"I'm hanging up in the stands and the crowd's reaction shocked me," Stokes told *The Sporting News*. "There was no sympathy, not even laughter. The crowd was ugly. It started ripping my balloon apart, tearing at it and pulling the sign off.

"All I could think of was the late 1700s in France when they used to have balloon launchings and charged people to watch. Lots of times when the balloon wouldn't take off, the people would attack it and rip it to shreds, then go after the guy inside. But I'm saying to myself, 'This is two-hundred years later and this is a silly old football game. Why are they people acting this way?'"

Needless to say, it was the last Super Bowl balloon race.

David Boss

The Vikings' balloon didn't fare any better than the team in Super Bowl IV.

Game	Honorary Coin Tossers
XII	Red Grange
XIII	George Halas
XIV	Art Rooney
XV	Marie Lombardi
XVI	Bobby Layne
XVII	Elroy (Crazy Legs) Hirsch
XVIII	Bronko Nagurski
XIX	Hugh McElhenny/President Reagan
XX	MVPs from Super Bowls I-XIX
XXI	Willie Davis
XXII	Don Hutson
XXIII	Nick Buoniconti, Bob Griese, Larry Little
XXIV	Mel Blount, Terry Bradshaw, Art Shell, Willie Wood
XXV	Pete Rozelle

(Officials conducted coin toss for Super Bowls I-XI).

For Your Halftime Pleasure...

Compared with today's elaborate Super Bowl productions, the halftime and pregame shows of early Super Bowls were amateur night at the Improv.

The Super Bowl's first attempt at a really big show made more noise than

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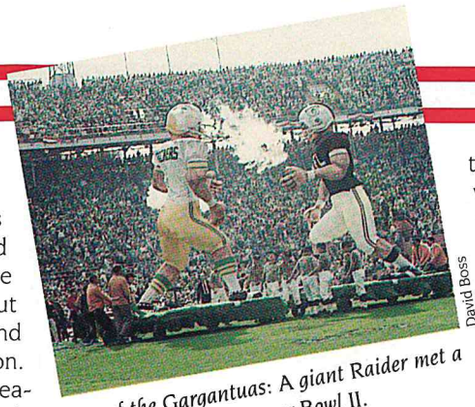

David Boss

War of the Gargantuas: A giant Raider met a giant Packer before Super Bowl II.

expected when a two-man team wearing jet packs blasted off and flew around the field, drowning out marching bands and casual conversation.

Super Bowl II featured a battle of the titans, only it wasn't the Packers against the Raiders. Two huge, 25-foot papier-mâché football figures met at the middle of the field to let off a little steam. The outcome was anticlimactic because the steam was released from their heads before the battle began.

Celebrating the marriage of the NFL and AFL in Super Bowl III, fans witnessed the cutting of a giant cake, adorned with two men on the top in Colts and Jets uniforms.

At Super Bowl IV, the entertainment was a halftime Waterloo. In trying to stage a full-scale re-creation of the Battle of New Orleans, the Super Bowl treated fans to vaudeville. When the smoke cleared, the already muddy field was marred with large potholes and rough terrain.

It wasn't until the NFL brought in legendary Disney producer Bob Jani for Super Bowl XI that the entertainment got in step with the event.

Super Bowl XI's halftime show featured audience participation in a card stunt.

The extravaganzas that followed Jani's lead always have been on a grand scale.

Some of the themes since 1977 have included salutes to the Caribbean, the 1960s and Motown, Bob Hope, the American hostages in Iran, and NASA.

Halftime shows also celebrated the birthdays of other American legends.

The NFL celebrated the 100th anniversary of Hollywood at Super Bowl XXI, displaying the various eras of Hollywood cinema—from silent movies to modern musicals.

At Super Bowl XXIV in New Orleans, Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" characters were given a fortieth birthday party that included Dixieland jazz, Southern gospel music, and an enormous replica of the *Delta Queen* riverboat.

It was a long way from men in jet packs and papier-mâché figures.

Super Bowl	National Anthem Performers
I	Trumpeter Al Hirt
II	Grambling University Band
III	Anita Bryant
IV	Trumpeters Al Hirt and Doc Severinsen, recital by actor Pat O'Brien
V	Marvin Gaye
VI	Air Force Academy Chorale
VII	Holy Angels School Choir (Chicago)
VIII	Charlie Pride
IX	Grambling University Band
X	Tom Sullivan
XI	Vicki Carr ("America the Beautiful")
XII	College student Phyllis Kelly
XIII	Colgate University Band
XIV	Actress Cheryl Ladd
XV	Big-band singer Helen O'Connell
XVI	Diana Ross
XVII	Actress Leslie Easterbrook
XVIII	Barry Manilow
XIX	Children's Choir of S.F. Bay Area
XX	Trumpeter Wynton Marsalis
XXI	Neil Diamond
XXII	Trumpeter Herb Alpert
XXIII	Billy Joel
XXIV	Aaron Neville
XXV	Whitney Houston

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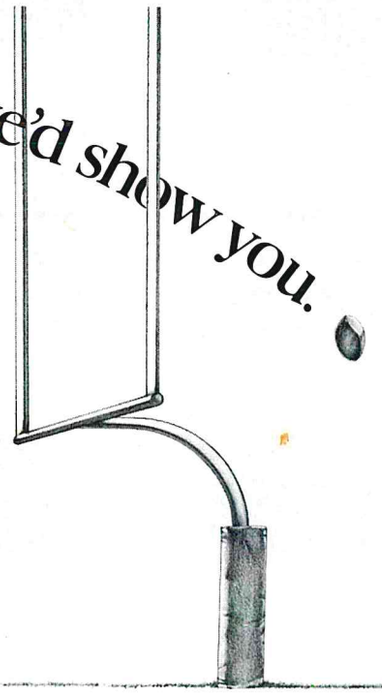

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Rings

Super Bowl I

Super Bowl II

Super Bowl III

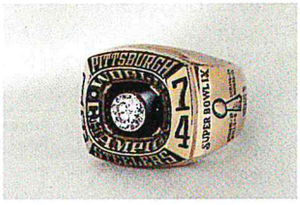
Super Bowl IV

Super Bowl V

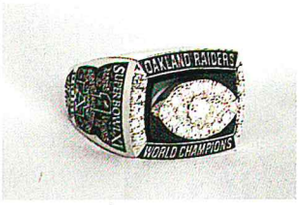
Super Bowl VI

Super Bowl VII

Super Bowl VIII

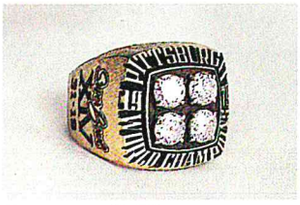

Super Bowl IX

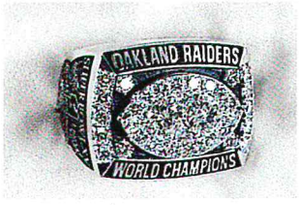
Super Bowl X


Super Bowl XI

Super Bowl XII

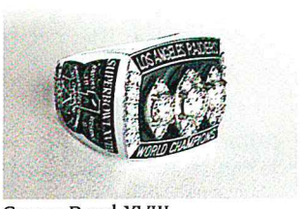
Super Bowl XIII


Super Bowl XIV


Super Bowl XV

Super Bowl XVI

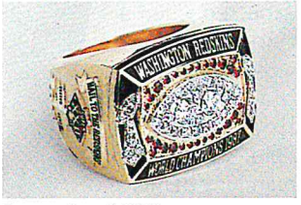
Super Bowl XVII


Super Bowl XVIII

Super Bowl XIX

Super Bowl XX

Super Bowl XXI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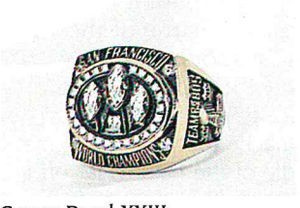
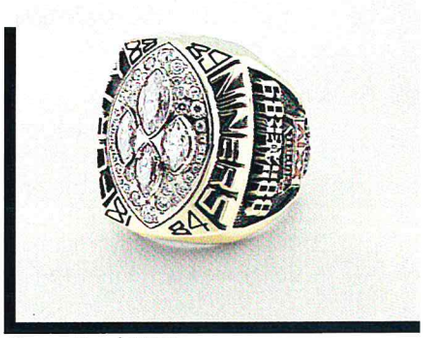

Super Bowl XXIII


Super Bowl XXIV

NFL Photos

Fourth-Niner Rings

Winning four Super Bowls is an exceptional feat. Designing a ring commensurate with that achievement was the task taken on by the 49ers and Josten's following San Francisco's record-tying fourth victory last January in Super Bowl XXIV.

What resulted is a stunning example of NFL championship jewelry. Like all of the 23 Super Bowl rings that preceded it, the 49ers' new ring is immense compared to a standard class ring. It is made of gold, with four football-shaped marquise-cut diamonds—representing San Francisco's four Super Bowl victories—set on a white gold insert. The four main diamonds are surrounded by smaller diamonds of various point sizes.

Though most players would go to extremes to get one Super Bowl ring, the Super Bowl XXIV ring is the fourth for five 49ers veterans—defensive back Ronnie Lott, quarterback Joe Montana, linebacker Keena Turner, wide receiver Mike Wilson, and cornerback Eric Wright.

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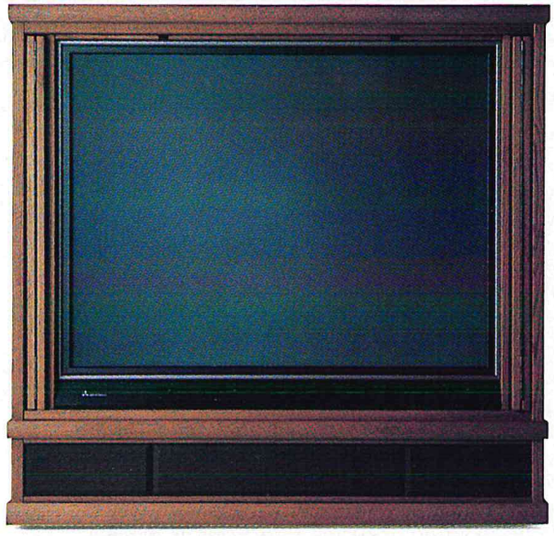

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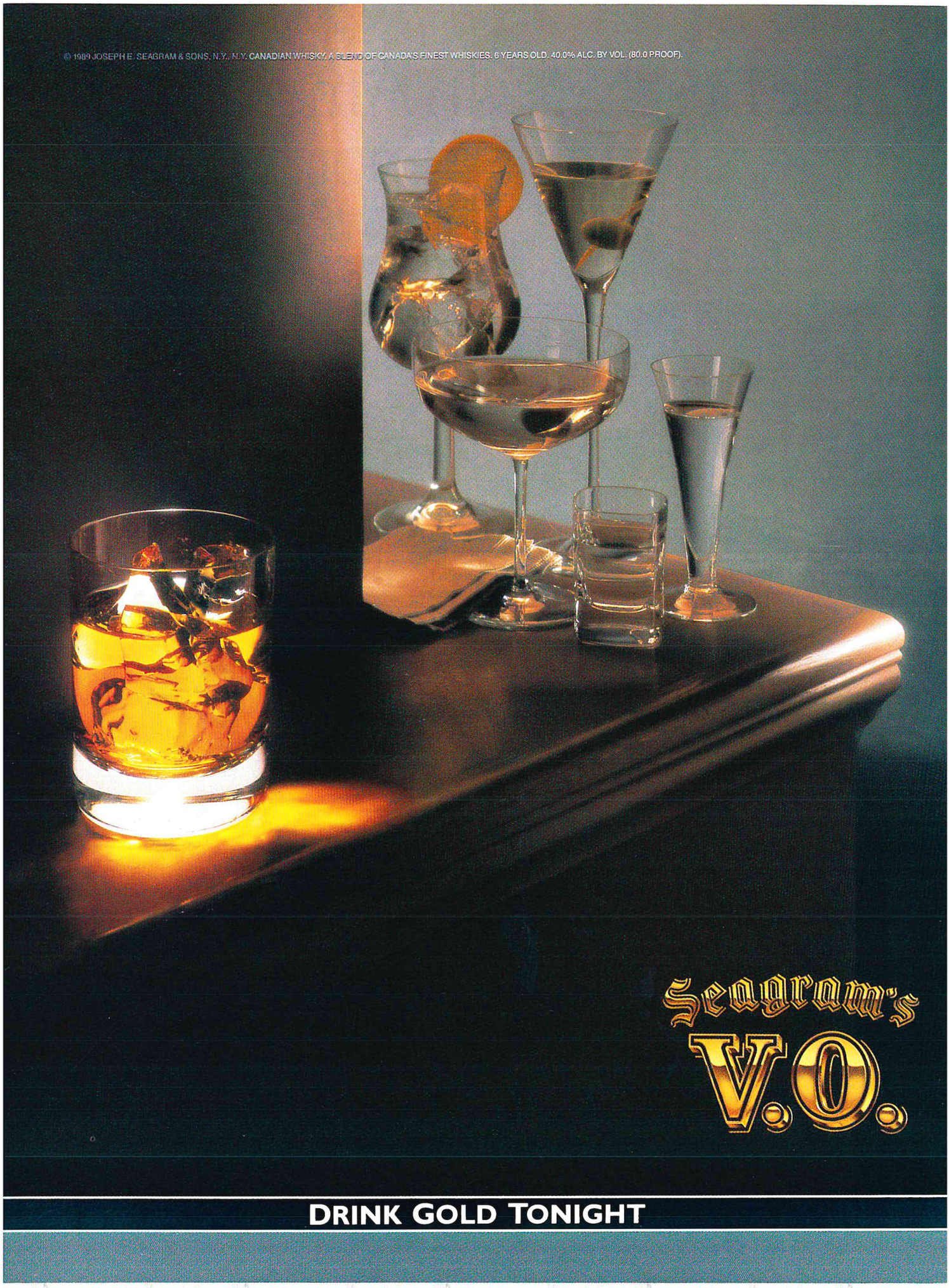
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DRINK GOLD TONIGHT

One Last Time, for Auld Lang Syne

By Bill McGrane

To redo an old line, if I'd known I was going to be doing this so long, I might have taken it a little more seriously. Actually, I'm kidding. This business already has all the serious it needs.

Anyway, this is my last Insight, 18 years (with an asterisk) after I sent my friend John Wiebusch a little essay about how it's different for rookies in training camp. Wiebusch liked it and asked if I'd like to write a piece for each issue of PRO! in 1973. He said he liked the idea of a regular piece by someone inside the game who had a writer's ear and eye.

Anyway again, this being my last one, you are stuck, good friends, with a bit of reflection, perhaps a dash of opinion, and the hope that all of this won't get too gray and misty, although gray and misty would match the autumn weather here in the deep woods east of Eagle River, Wisconsin, which is where Poor Dottie and I escaped when we broke out of football in the spring of 1989.

I wandered into the football business in '66 and wandered isn't a word used loosely.

Hadn't planned on it.

I was down at Purdue, covering a Minnesota-Purdue basketball game for the *Minneapolis Tribune*. I got a call from Jim Finks, the general manager of the Minnesota Vikings.

We didn't know each other.

"I want to talk with you Monday," Finks said. I was sure I'd offended people here and there at the collegiate level, but I couldn't remember ever having plinked Finks.

So I said, "Why?"

"I want you to work for us," he said.

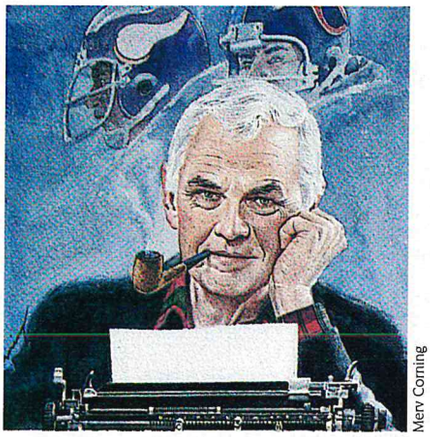
Well, since I was going to write for newspapers forever, I said I'd go along for a free lunch, but that I really wasn't interested.

We had lunch on Monday. On Friday, I was the Vikings' new Public Relations' Director.

You have to know Finks, and if you don't you're the poorer for it. Like *Reader's Digest* says, he's the most unforgettable character I've known. I went because I knew I wanted to work with and for him.

And I did, for the next seven years. Then, just when I was getting tired of beating the Vikings' drum, Commissioner Pete Rozelle called and offered me a job in the NFL office.

That was after the 1972 season. I went, but with misgivings. It was a "should." See, I didn't like New York. Problem with "shoulds" is you end up "shoulding" on yourself.



Merv Corning

Looking back, I think I was a team type... boiled down, that means a fan. The isolation of the league office wasn't my bag. I liked the people, but not New York.

That was when Insight started. It gave me something to hold on to. It kept me in touch with the beauty and the pettiness and the tedium, with the madness and the courage and the disappointment that made teams tick.

I did Insight in 1973 and started to do it again in 1974, but there was a player strike and I got buried under working on that. Another friend, Al Ward, wrote in place of me most of that season, hence the asterisk.

Finks went to the Chicago Bears in 1974. He knew I wasn't happy in New York, so he asked me if I wanted to get back to the heartland. I did, in January, 1975, and had to eat crow a second time. First, because I'd told Poor Dottie (a Finks' nickname) when we lived in Minnesota that the two places I'd never work were New York and Chicago. Now I was leaving New York to go to Chicago. Second, because of the team I was going to. When I was with the Vikings, there was no team we despised more than the Bears.

Well, my Chicago run went from 1975 through the 1988 season. I had a lot of different titles, all translated to what my friend Curt Mosher once identified as being a "Titan of Tedium."

Looking back, a fair portion of my football sanity was anchored to the escape writing these columns gave me.

Sounds corny, but they have been a labor of love.

My plan, from the start, was to take the reader into places he couldn't go. He couldn't go into the locker room before the game where the occupant of one bathroom stall was reading the Sunday funnies while the fellow next to him was throwing up. He couldn't sit in the draft room while tempers flared because the clock was running and management wanted some big lineman, not the tight end the coach was thumping for. He couldn't sense the sullen—okay, make it murderous—mood that two-a-days and the summer sun bring to training camp. He couldn't be with Walter Payton, sitting in a darkened bus, weeping after the 49ers humiliated the Bears in the 1984 NFC Championship Game.

He wasn't permitted to know the rage and the fear, the ribald humor and the fierce bonding, the moments of triumph that can't be put into words and the moments of loss that were worse.

He couldn't go there, inside. But I could. And that's what I've tried to do these 18 years...take the reader inside the heads and hearts and bellies of some of those hugely gifted people who play the game, and of the coaches and all the rest who support their play.

I think writing this made me more aware, not just of football, but of living. I am grateful for that.

Rewarding?

I was in the Steelers' office once, advancing a Vikings-Pittsburgh game, and Mr. Rooney said, "Listen, kid...why don't you come over to the house tomorrow for Thanksgiving dinner? We got plenty."

Excitement? Tough to top helping Merlin Olsen wrestle a too-big belt into the too-small loops of his Pro Bowl game pants as the rest of the team headed for the field. Merlin pulled, I pushed, and we both cussed. So much for Father Murphy.

There's lots more...but you've got a game to watch.

I called John Wiebusch in Los Angeles the other day to tell him I thought it was time to call it a day...maybe turn my old keyboard in new directions.

He said, "Well, nobody could have done it better," and I said, "Thanks," because that meant a lot to me.

Thanks, too, to everybody from Norm Van Brocklin to Mike Ditka (how's that for two coworkers?) and everybody in between.

And thanks to you, too. Otherwise, I never would have made it past the asterisk.

★XXV★

Tackling Inequality

Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., at Paul Tagliabue's induction onto King Federal Holiday Commission

The chance to meet their favorite stars and discuss the finer points of football and life may have seemed remote to many of the inner-city youths of Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Hillsborough County.

But on January 19, these economically disadvantaged youngsters had just such an experience when they participated in the Super Bowl XXV Football Clinic.

"You are talking about an event that gives kids an opportunity to rub elbows with their heroes and stars and learn what it takes to be an NFL player," says former Miami Dolphins wide receiver Nat Moore. "The kids learn it's not what you do on the field, but what you do off the field that gets you to a point where you get an opportunity to compete.

"We give them the opportunity to learn football. But more than that, we spend time talking about the importance of an education and drug awareness."

The clinic is a reflection of the NFL's ever-increasing commitment to charitable organizations, underprivileged youth, and the minority community. For example:

- More than 100 different needy organizations have received grants from NFL Charities totaling more than $10 million.

"During the 1970s, we started airing public service messages on league telecasts," says former NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle. "They were received so well, I felt we could establish a charity fund to do even more good work—in effect, to pay back all the fan support we received and make improvements for society as a whole in the name of the NFL."

- This week the NFL will award a total of $25,000 in education grants to graduating high school minority students in the Tampa area, a program that began at Super Bowl XXIII.

That's just one of many Super Bowl-related projects targeted for the minority community. From the video monitors in Super Bowl Village and Town Square to banking services for the league and participating players, minority-owned companies have provided many of the goods and services required to make Super Bowl week a success, and thus have shared in the economic benefit of Super Bowl XXV.

"The significant progress that the league has made in this area demonstrates that through commitment and cooperation, many minority-related issues are relatively simple to resolve," says NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

- The NFL has developed programs to increase employment and business opportunities for minorities within the league (some 32 percent of the NFL's 244 non-playing minority employees were hired for or promoted to their current positions within the last three years). And through the league-wide Minority Coaches Fellowship Program, the NFL is certain to see increases in minority representation in the coaching ranks.

The coaching fellowship program is a hands-on internship plan modeled after a concept introduced by San Francisco 49ers owner Edward DeBartolo, Jr., and then-head coach Bill Walsh in 1987. The 49ers provided the first fellowship that summer to Cal State-Fullerton coach Jerry Brown. Brown subsequently was hired by the Minnesota Vikings as an offensive assistant in June, 1988. Another graduate of the program, Rod Perry, now is the defensive backfield coach of the Seattle Seahawks.

"What has been demonstrated here is the complete cycle of the fellowship program," Walsh says, "from the selection through the actual coaching experience at training camp, resulting in the hiring of very capable coaches."

- Minority-owned businesses also profit from the NFL's commitment to minority affairs. Among them: Sheridan Broadcasting Network and Advantage Marketing Group, each of which assists the NFL with elements of its nationwide education campaign, and Ariel Growth Capital, a money management firm.

- Under the direction of Moore and the co-sponsorship of Pro Set football cards and Gatorade, more than 4,000 youngsters participated in a series of clinics in 11 different cities last June (next year, Moore hopes to have 28 clinics—one for each NFL team).

Those were offshoots of the Super Bowl clinic, which was the brainchild of Moore, the leading receiver in Dolphins history. The clinic first came to fruition two years ago. Moore and three dozen or so athletes staged league-sponsored clinics in Miami prior to Super Bowl XXIII, and in New Orleans before Super Bowl XXIV.

"This was a way to get the grass-roots people in the community to take part in the Super Bowl," Moore says. "This was a way to get them involved. It also was a chance to give disadvantaged youngsters a taste of success. Many of these NFL players came from the same background, but they worked their way out. The message is that hard work and dedication can pay off in the end."

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COLLECTION

TEAM RECORDS

SCORING

Most Points, Game

55 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
46 Chicago vs. New England, XX
42 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
39 New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI
38 Los Angeles Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Points, Game

3 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
6 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
7 Baltimore vs. New York Jets, III
Minnesota vs. Kansas City, IV
Washington vs. Miami, VII
Minnesota vs. Miami, VIII

Most Points, Both Teams, Game

66 Pittsburgh (35) vs. Dallas (31), XIII
65 San Francisco (55) vs. Denver (10), XXIV
59 New York Giants (39) vs. Denver (20), XXI
56 Chicago (46) vs. New England (10), XX
54 San Francisco (38) vs. Miami (16), XIX

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Game

21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII
22 Minnesota (6) vs. Pittsburgh (16), IX
23 Baltimore (7) vs. New York Jets (16), III
27 Miami (3) vs. Dallas (24), VI
29 Dallas (13) vs. Baltimore (16), V

Largest Margin of Victory, Game

45 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (55-10)
36 Chicago vs. New England, XX (46-10)
32 Washington vs. Denver, XXII (42-10)
29 Los Angeles Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII (38-9)
25 Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I (35-10)

Most Points, Each Half

1st: 35 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
2nd: 30 New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

Most Points, Each Quarter

1st: 14 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
2nd: 35 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
3rd: 21 Chicago vs. New England, XX
4th: 14 Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X
Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, XIII
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV
Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Washington vs. Miami, XVII
San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Most Points, Both Teams, Each Half

1st: 45 Washington (35) vs. Denver (10), XXII
2nd: 40 New York Giants (30) vs. Denver (10), XXI

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Each Half

1st: 2 Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX
2nd: 7 Miami (0) vs. Washington (7), VII
Denver (0) vs. Washington (7), XXII

Most Points, Both Teams, Each Quarter

1st: 17 Miami (10) vs. San Francisco (7), XIX
Denver (10) vs. New York Giants (7), XXI
2nd: 35 Washington (35) vs. Denver (0), XXII
3rd: 21 Chicago (21) vs. New England (0), XX
San Francisco (14) vs. Denver (7), XXIV
4th: 28 Pittsburgh (14) vs. Dallas (14), XIII

FIRST DOWNS

Most First Downs, Game

31 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
28 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
25 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
24 Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Washington vs. Miami, XVII
New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

Fewest First Downs, Game

9 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Miami vs. Washington, XVII
10 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Miami vs. Dallas, VI
11 Denver vs. Dallas, XII

Most First Downs, Both Teams, Game

50 San Francisco (31) vs. Miami (19), XIX
47 New York Giants (24) vs. Denver (23), XXI
44 Cincinnati (24) vs. San Francisco (20), XVI

Fewest First Downs, Both Teams, Game

24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V
26 Minnesota (9) vs. Pittsburgh (17), IX
27 Pittsburgh (13) vs. Dallas (14), X

TOTAL YARDS

Most Yards Gained, Game

602 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
537 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
461 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
453 San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
429 Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

119 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
123 New England vs. Chicago, XX
156 Denver vs. Dallas, XII

Most Yards Gained, Game

929 Washington (602) vs. Denver (327), XXII
851 San Francisco (537) vs. Miami (314), XIX
782 Oakland (429) vs. Minnesota (353), XI

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX
481 Washington (228) vs. Miami (253), VII
Denver (156) vs. Dallas (325), XII
497 Minnesota (238) vs. Miami (259), VIII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Game

57 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
53 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
52 Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Fewest Attempts, Game

9 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
11 New England vs. Chicago, XX
17 Denver vs. Washington, XXII
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

Most Attempts, Both Teams, Game

81 Washington (52) vs. Miami (29), XVII
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI
77 Miami (53) vs. Minnesota (24), VIII
Pittsburgh (46) vs. Dallas (31), X

Fewest Attempts, Both Teams, Game

49 Miami (9) vs. San Francisco (40), XIX
53 Kansas City (19) vs. Green Bay (34), I
55 San Francisco (27) vs. Cincinnati (28), XXIII

Most Yards Gained, Game

280 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
276 Washington vs. Miami, XVII
266 Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

7 New England vs. Chicago, XX
17 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
25 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

377 Washington (280) vs. Denver (97), XXII
372 Washington (276) vs. Miami (96), XVII
337 Oakland (266) vs. Minnesota (71), XI

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

171 Baltimore (69) vs. Dallas (102), V
174 New England (7) vs. Chicago (167), XX
186 Philadelphia (69) vs. Oakland (117), XV

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Game

50 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
44 Minnesota vs. Oakland, XI
41 Baltimore vs. New York Jets, III
Denver vs. New York Giants, XXI

Fewest Passes Attempted, Game

7 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
11 Miami vs. Washington, VII
14 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Most Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game

85 Miami (50) vs. San Francisco (35), XIX
70 Baltimore (41) vs. New York Jets (29), III
69 Denver (39) vs. Washington (30), XXII

Fewest Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game

35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII
39 Miami (11) vs. Washington (28), VII
40 Pittsburgh (14) vs. Minnesota (26), IX
Miami (17) vs. Washington (23), XVII

Bob Rosato

49ers' 55-10 win in XXIV set record.

Most Passes Completed, Game

29 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
26 Denver vs. New York Giants, XXI
25 Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI

Fewest Passes Completed, Game

4 Miami vs. Washington, XVII
6 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
8 Miami vs. Washington, VII
Denver vs. Dallas, XII

Most Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game

53 Miami (29) vs. San Francisco (24), XIX
48 Denver (26) vs. New York Giants (22), XXI
39 Cincinnati (25) vs. San Francisco (14), XVI

Fewest Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game

19 Miami (4) vs. Washington (15), XVII
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX
22 Miami (8) vs. Washington (14), VII

Most Yards Gained, Game

341 San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
326 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
322 Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

35 Denver vs. Dallas, XII
63 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
69 Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

615 San Francisco (326) vs. Miami (289), XIX
583 Denver (320) vs. New York Giants (263), XXI
552 Washington (322) vs. Denver (230), XXII

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII
186 Pittsburgh (84) vs. Minnesota (102), IX
205 Dallas (100) vs. Miami (105), VI

Most Times Sacked, Game

7 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I
Washington vs. Los Angeles Raiders, XVIII
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

Fewest Times Sacked, Game

0 Baltimore vs. New York Jets, III
Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV
Philadelphia vs. Oakland, XV

PENALTIES

Most Penalties, Game

12 Dallas vs. Denver, XII
10 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
9 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, XIII

Fewest Penalties, Game

0 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

Most Yards Penalized, Game

133 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
122 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
94 Dallas vs. Denver, XII

Fewest Yards Penalized, Game

0 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

RUSHING

Most Yards Gained, Game

204 Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
191 Marcus Allen, Los Angeles Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
166 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
158 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
145 Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
137 Clarence Davis, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
121 Matt Snell, New York Jets vs. Baltimore, III
116 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. New York Jets, III
112 Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most Attempts, Game

38 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
33 Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
30 Matt Snell, New York Jets vs. Baltimore, III
27 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X

Most Touchdowns, Game

2 Elijah Pitts, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
Pete Banaszak, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Jim McMahon, Chicago vs. New England, XX
Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
Tom Rathman, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Longest Run

74 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII (TD)
58 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. New York Jets, III
Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
49 Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Washington, VII
43 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII (TD)

PASSING

Most Yards Gained, Game

357 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
340 Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
331 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
318 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
309 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV
304 John Elway, Denver vs. New York Giants, XXI
300 Ken Anderson, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI

Al Messerschmidt

Dan Marino

Most Attempts, Game

50 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
38 Ron Jaworski, Philadelphia vs. Oakland, XV
John Elway, Denver vs. Washington, XXII
37 John Elway, Denver vs. New York Giants, XXI
36 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII

Most Completions, Game

29 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
25 Ken Anderson, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
24 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
23 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
22 Phil Simms, New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI
John Elway, Denver vs. New York Giants, XXI
Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Most Touchdowns, Game

5 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
4 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
3 Roger Staubach, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, XIII
Jim Plunkett, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
Phil Simms, New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

RECEIVING

Most Yards Gained, Game

215 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
193 Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
161 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X
148 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
138 Max McGee, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
133 George Sauer, New York Jets vs. Baltimore, III
129 Willie Gault, Chicago vs. New England, XX
124 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
121 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV
Vance Johnson, Denver vs. New York Giants, XXI

Most Receptions, Game

11 Dan Ross, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
10 Tony Nathan, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
9 Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
8 George Sauer, New York Jets vs. Baltimore, III
Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII

Most Touchdowns, Game

3 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
2 Max McGee, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
Bill Miller, Oakland vs. Green Bay, II
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
Cliff Branch, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
Dan Ross, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Reception (All TDs)

80 Kenny King (from Plunkett), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
Ricky Sanders (from Williams), Washington vs. Denver, XXII
76 Jimmy Cefalo (from Woodley), Miami vs. Washington, XVII
75 John Mackey (from Unitas), Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
John Stallworth (from Bradshaw), Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
73 John Stallworth (from Bradshaw), Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV
64 Lynn Swann (from Bradshaw), Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X

Tony Tomsic

Lynn Swann

SCORING

Most Points, Game

18 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (1-r,2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-p)
15 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (3-pat, 4-fg)
14 Ray Wersching, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI (2-pat, 4-fg)
Kevin Butler, Chicago vs. New England, XX (5-pat, 3-fg)

Most Points, Career

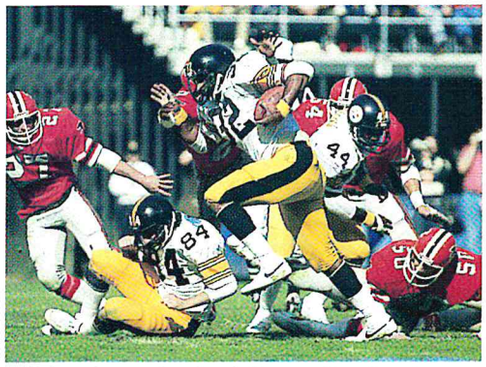
24 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-td)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (4-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games (4-td)
22 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (7-pat, 5-fg)
20 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (8-pat, 4-fg)

CAREER PASSING LEADERS (minimum 40 attempts)

Player, Team	Games	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Joe Montana, San Francisco	4	122	83	68.0	1142	9.36	11	9.0	44	0	0.0	127.8
Jim Plunkett, Oakland-L.A.Raiders	2	46	29	63.0	433	9.41	4	8.7	80t	0	0.0	122.8
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	4	84	49	58.3	932	11.10	9	10.7	75t	4	4.8	112.8
Bart Starr, Green Bay	2	47	29	61.7	452	9.62	3	6.4	62t	1	2.1	106.0
Roger Staubach, Dallas	4	98	61	62.2	734	7.49	8	8.2	45t	4	4.1	95.4
Len Dawson, Kansas City	2	44	28	63.6	353	8.02	2	4.5	46t	2	4.5	84.8
Bob Griese, Miami	3	41	26	63.4	295	7.20	1	2.4	28t	2	4.9	72.7
Dan Marino, Miami	1	50	29	58.0	318	6.36	1	2.0	30	2	4.0	66.9
Joe Theismann, Washington	2	58	31	53.4	386	6.66	2	3.4	60	4	6.9	57.1
John Elway, Denver	3	101	46	45.5	669	6.62	2	1.9	56t	6	5.9	49.5
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota	3	89	46	51.7	489	5.49	1	1.1	30	6	6.7	43.7

Peter Brouillet

Joe Montana



MV Rubio

Pittsburgh running back Franco Harris

CAREER RUSHING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	Yards	Attempts	Avg.	Long	TD
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	4	354	101	3.5	25	4
Larry Csonka, Miami	3	297	57	5.2	49	2
John Riggins, Washington	2	230	64	3.6	43t	2
Timmy Smith, Washington	1	204	22	9.3	58t	2
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	198	52	3.8	18	2
Marcus Allen, L.A.Raiders	1	191	20	9.6	74t	2
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	2	162	31	5.2	29	1
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	2	148	36	4.1	11	0
Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh	4	144	44	3.3	18	0
Walt Garrison, Dallas	2	139	26	5.3	19	0

CAREER RECEIVING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	20	212	10.6	40	2
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	2	18	363	20.2	44	4
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	4	16	364	22.8	64t	3
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota	3	15	139	9.3	26	0
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders	3	14	181	12.9	50	3
Preston Pearson, Balt.-Pitt.-Dall.	5	12	105	8.8	14	0
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh	4	11	268	24.4	75t	3
Dan Ross, Cincinnati	1	11	104	9.5	16	2
Otis Taylor, Kansas City	2	10	138	13.8	46t	1
Dwight Clark, San Francisco	2	10	122	12.2	33	0
Tony Nathan, Miami	1	10	83	8.3	25	0

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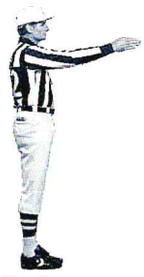
Dead Ball or Neutral Zone Established, Crowd Noise


First Down

Personal Foul

Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted

Delay of Game, Illegal Substitution, or Excess Time Out

No Time Out or Time in With Whistle

Offside or Encroaching

Holding

Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, or Missed Field Goal

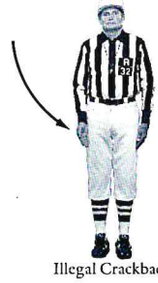
Ineligible Receiver or Ineligible Member of Kicking Team Downfield

Illegal Motion at Snap

Crawling, Interlocking Interference, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Unsportsmanlike Conduct Chop Blocks

Tripping


Illegal Crackback

Illegal Cut or Blocking Below the Waist

Intentional Grounding of Pass

Touching a Forward Pass or Scrimmage Kick

Player Disqualified

Illegal Contact

False Start, Illegal Shift Procedure, or Formation

Illegal Use of Hands, Arms, or Body

Pass Juggled Inbounds, Caught Out of Bounds

Illegal Forward Pass

Loss of Down

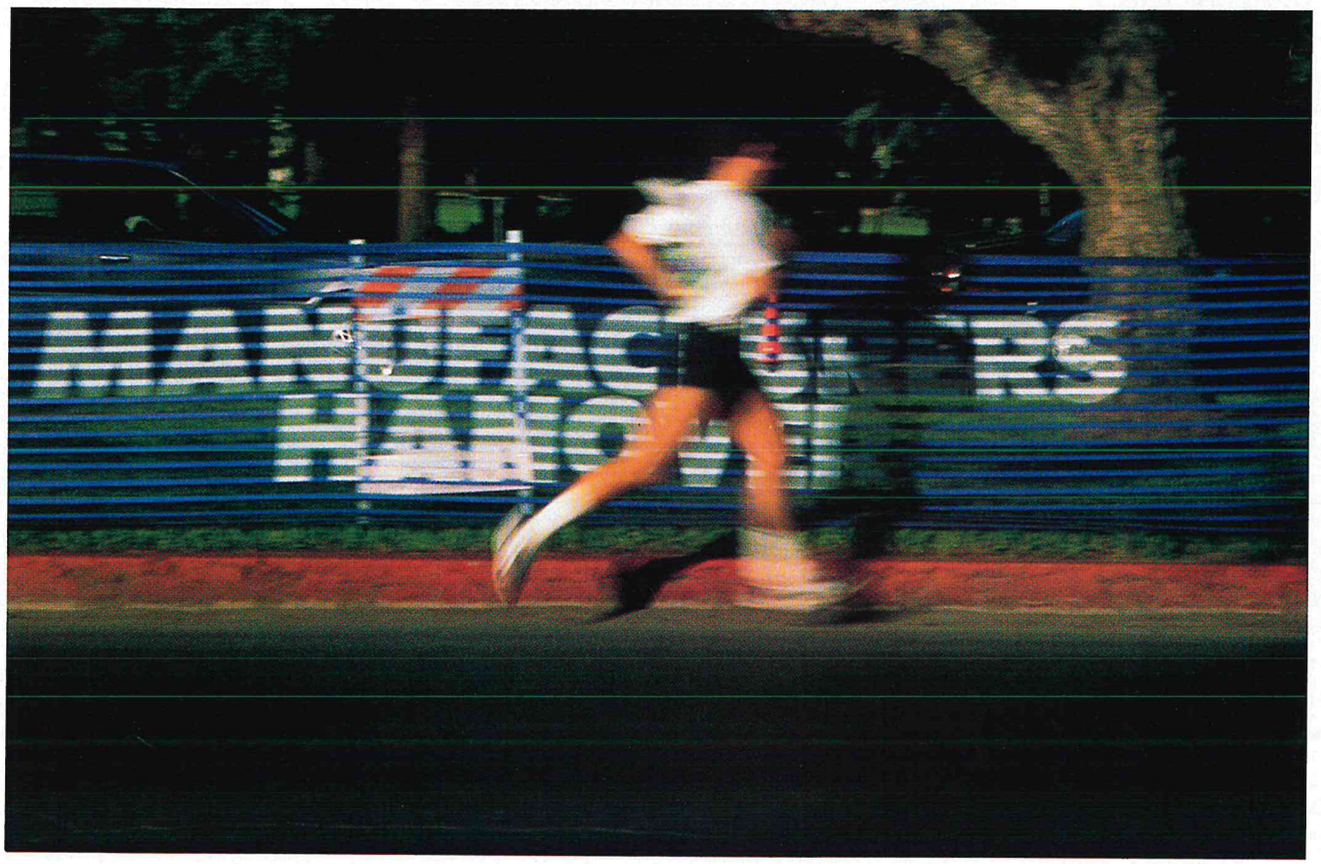
Invalid Fair Catch Signal

Uncatchable Forward Pass

Interference With Forward Pass or Fair Catch

MANUFACTURERS HANOVER

Drive



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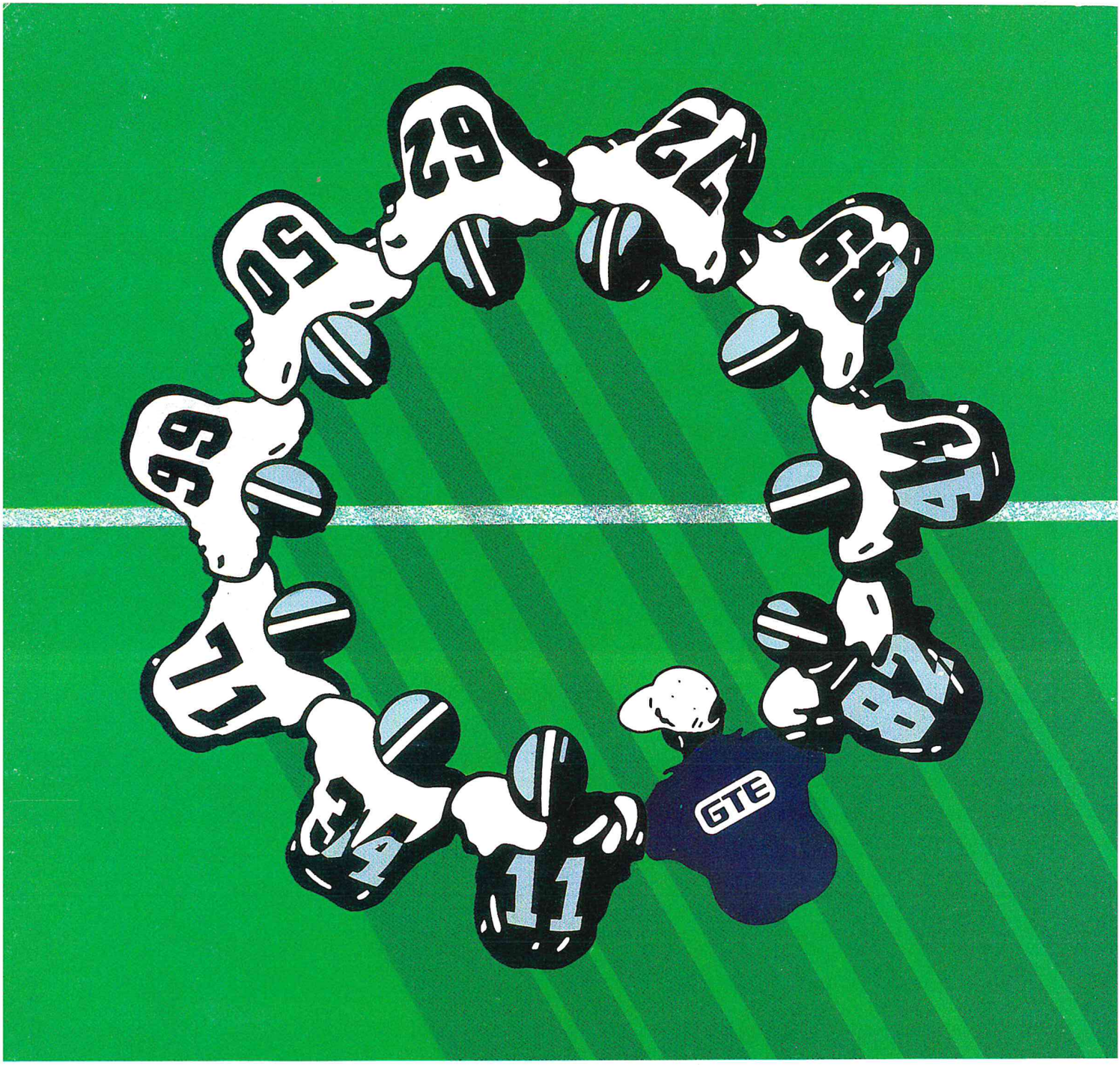

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THE POWER IS ON

THE SCOUTING REPORT

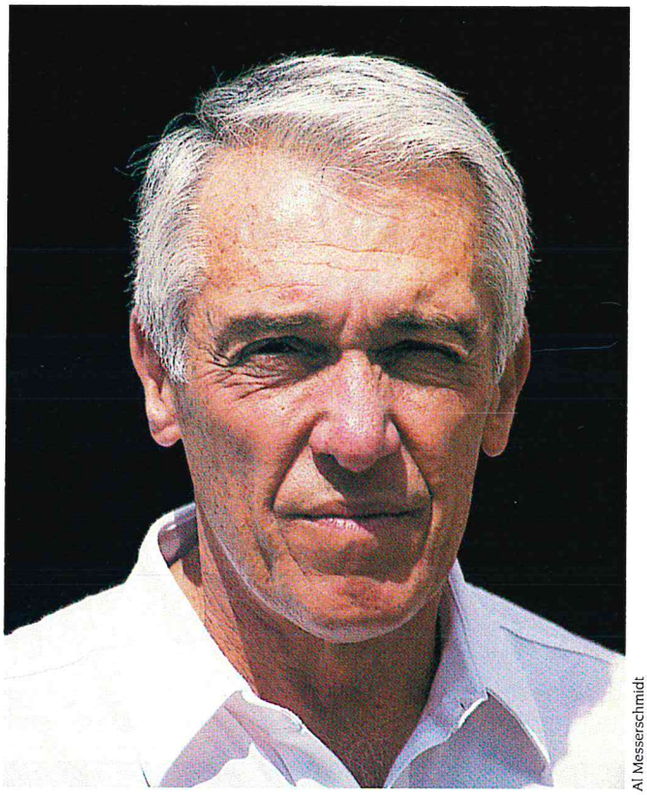
The Matchups
Starting Lineups
Player Photos
How the Teams Were Built
Numerical Rosters

BUFFALO BILLS

The Bills are right where they were projected to be before the season began—champions of the AFC East for the third consecutive season, a team of overpowering balance on both offense and defense.

As Cincinnati quarterback Boomer Esiason put it, "The Bills are everything they are advertised to be."

There are few apparent weaknesses to head coach Marv Levy's fifth edition of the Bills. They have a potent offense led by quarterback Jim Kelly and running back Thurman Thomas, and a solid, if unacclaimed, offensive line. The true strength of the team is the defense, which features a front seven that is equally adept against the pass or run, and an end, Bruce Smith, who was named NFL defensive player of the year.



Al Messerschmidt

Marv Levy's Bills compiled a 13-3 record, tops in the AFC.

To beat the Bills, opponents must get past that front seven. Besides Smith, who finished second in the NFL with 19 sacks, Buffalo's front line includes Leon Seals at left end and Jeff Wright at nose tackle. They provide the muscle. Shane Conlan, Cornelius Bennett, Darryl Talley, and Ray Bentley are the linebackers. Talley led the team with 123 tackles.

But the secret strength of the Bills' defense may be its secondary. Buffalo has class defenders at all secondary positions, especially since the return of two injured players, free safety Mark Kelso and cornerback Kirby Jackson. That leaves strong safety Leonard Smith and cornerback Nate Odomes. Smith, who made 98 tackles, is most valuable as a strong safety, but he played effectively while filling in for Kelso during Kelso's 13 weeks on the injured list.

As a group, that secondary gives Levy a seasoned, versatile weapon that would worry any offensive coordinator.

Offensively, the key is Kelly, who missed the last two games of the regular season with a strained knee. A brace and a dose of old-fashioned toughness allowed Kelly to return to action, and he came back as good as ever. In the snow against Miami, he proved he had lost nothing from his passing efficiency, and, even more important to the Bills, still had the mobility to move around and run when forced.

Kelly finished as the top-rated passer in the NFL in 1990 with a 101.2 rating. He completed 219 of 346 pass attempts for 2,829 yards, passing for 24 touchdowns while throwing only 9 interceptions. He didn't rank among the top five in the AFC in passing yardage, but missing two full games and part of a third cut his numbers.

Kelly makes the Bills go. He runs Levy's hurry-up offense to perfection, audiblizing often at the line of scrimmage and staying in tune with his head coach. Levy likes to stay in the hurry-up when the opponent seems to have problems adjusting to it, and he'll stay with the attack until they show they have it solved. Even then, he'll often return to it later in the game.

Kelly's main target is Andre Reed, one of the premier pass receivers in the NFL. Reed catches most of his passes on crossing patterns, then relies on his speed to make big gains. He caught 71 passes for 945 yards and 8 touchdowns in the regular season.

James Lofton, a 13-year veteran, works the long-passing areas. He made only 35 catches during the regular season, but averaged 20.3 yards a catch. Al Edwards became the third wide receiver when an injury finished Don Beebe's season. Tight end Keith McKeller gets the heavy-duty work across the middle.

Thurman Thomas is the Bills' running game. He led the AFC in rushing with 1,297 yards on 271 carries for a 4.8-yard average, scoring 11 rushing touchdowns. He also is the safety-valve pass-catcher coming out of the backfield, ranking second on the team with 49 receptions for 532 yards and 2 more touchdowns.

Jamie Mueller does most of the lead blocking for Thomas, but he also gets the call to run every now and then. Kenneth Davis also sees action as a runner and pass receiver.

The Bills' offensive line is big—and good. Kent Hull, a Pro Bowl starter, anchors the line at center. Hull and left tackle Will Wolford (6-5 and 290 pounds) are the leaders up front. Jim Ritcher is the left guard. The Bills boast beef on the right side in guard John Davis, 6-4 and 310 pounds, and tackle Howard Ballard, 6-6 and 315.

The front blocks adequately for the run and the pass. In short, it can do what has to be done.

The Bills' kicking is in the hands of capable Scott Norwood, who finished second in the AFC in scoring with 110 points. Norwood is consistent on kicks up to the high 40-yard range, with his longest effort of the year coming from 48 yards. His kickoffs usually are short, but coverage is good because of Pro Bowl kamikaze Steve Tasker. The punting game is below average.

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

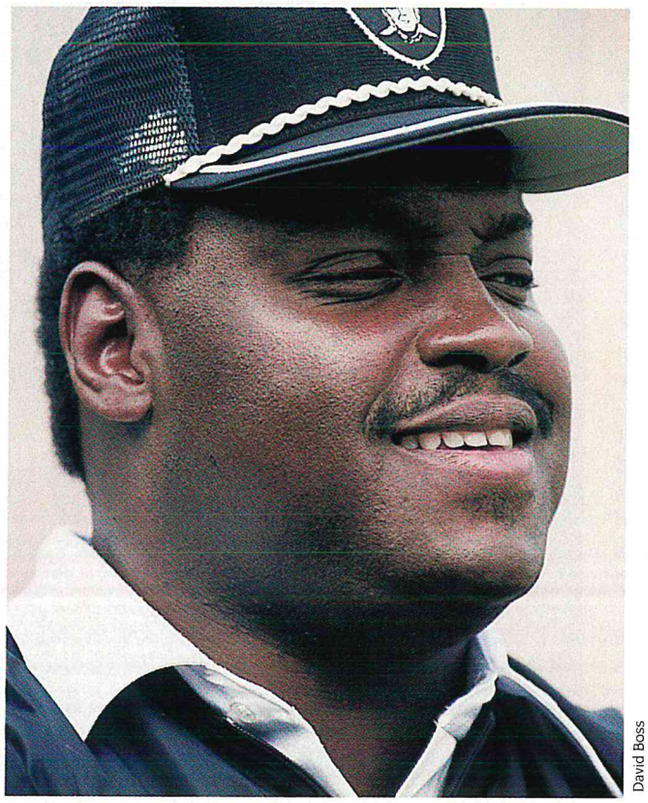
The Raiders embarked upon the 1990 season with huge amounts of talent, enthusiasm...and confusion. They knew they had the makings of a winner under second-year head coach Art Shell, but several questions hovered over their heads like a Stage 3 smog alert:

Who would be the Raiders' starting quarterback? Could Marcus Allen and Bo Jackson learn to co-exist in the same backfield? Where would the men in Silver and Black be playing a year later?

Much normality was restored on September 11 when, two days after the regular-season opener, Al Davis officially announced that his franchise would stay in Los Angeles, ending speculation over a move to Oakland. That small matter settled, the team turned its attention to football.

Jay Schroeder was handed the quarterback job as Steve Beuerlein, the people's choice of 1989, feuded with Davis. Schroeder survived early season boos and rumors of a trade, and turned in the most efficient season of his career, giving the Raiders a huge boost.

The Raiders also benefited from the arrival of three newcomers—guard Max Montoya and linebackers Riki Ellison and Aaron Wallace—and the vast improvement of two other players, cornerback Terry McDaniel and tight end Ethan Horton.



David Boss

Art Shell has compiled a 19-9 record in two regular seasons.

Montoya and Ellison, both signed as free agents during the offseason, lent stability and leadership after earning starting spots; Wallace, a second-round draft choice last April, proved to be a demon of a pass rusher; McDaniel, who actually lost his job to rookie Garry Lewis in preseason, was playing like a Pro Bowl pick by the end of the year; and Horton, a converted running back, caught 33 passes, to help to ease the blow of an injury to starter Mike Dyal.

These players seemed to be the final ingredients in a mix that already included a rugged, penetrating defense, a rapidly improving offensive line, and a frightening array of skill-position firepower.

The talent is staggering, but it took a personality like head coach Art Shell to mold it. Shell has mesmerized his players with talk of the Raiders' glory days, and they clearly bear his emotional imprint.

"He gave us back the belief," defensive end Greg Townsend said after Los Angeles had defeated Denver on opening day. "This is Art Shell football. He gives us back the attitude of the Silver-and-Black attack."

That attitude brought the Raiders a 12-4 regular-season mark, their first division title and their first playoff appearance since 1985, and their first postseason victory since a 38-9 thrashing of Washington in Super Bowl XVIII. Though the self-described "winningest team in professional sports" might not have admitted it during the drought, this was a franchise hungry for success.

But after a splendid 6-1 start, the Raiders almost folded, losing three games in November. Two of those losses were to Kansas City, allowing the Chiefs to claim first place in the AFC West. After the second Kansas City game, a disheartening 27-24 loss in the Coliseum, the players met and vowed to win the remaining games on the schedule.

They did, rattling off five consecutive victories, including three on the road, and vaulting into the playoffs with a full head of steam. So what happened during the November Nightmare? The biggest problem was turnovers. The Raiders lost the ball three or more times in four 1990 games—and they just happened to be the four games the team lost.

It isn't hard to figure out the puzzle. Any team with gamebreakers such as Bo Jackson, Marcus Allen, Willie Gault, Mervyn Fernandez, and Tim Brown—all past, present, or potential Pro Bowl players—in the lineup should win if it can hang onto the ball.

As Schroeder put it early in the season: "I'm doing what I need to do for this football team to win. Make some plays here and there, don't turn the ball over, and, hey, if nothing's there, throw it away."

Art Shell couldn't have said it better himself.

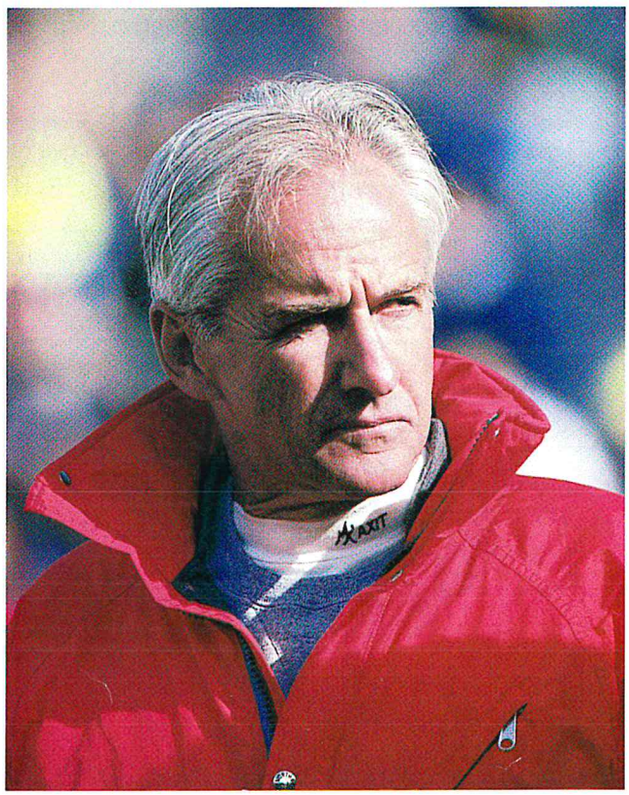
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

They are true blue bloods of the game, a team that always knows which silverware to use at pro football's ultimate dinner party, the Super Bowl.

The 49ers played in the Super Bowl after the 1981 season, after 1984, after 1988, after 1989. Yeah, these guys not only know which silverware to use *during* the game, they know which silverware to take *after* the game. Four Vince Lombardi Trophies call San Francisco home.

The 49ers had the NFL's best won-loss record during the 1980s (117-51-1, including postseason). They had a phenomenal cumulative record of 37-8 for the last five games of each season from 1981-89. They have been a playoff team in 9 of the last 10 years (missing only in 1982). They had back-to-back 14-2 regular seasons in 1989 and 1990. They have not lost a game away from Candlestick Park since November 6, 1988, an unprecedented streak of 21 games. Incidentally, included among the 21 are victories that took place in Miami and New Orleans, respective sites of Super Bowls XXIII and XXIV.

George Seifert took the wheel from Bill Walsh as 49ers head coach with the club in front of the NFL pack. All Seifert has done is extend the lead, putting San Francisco in pro football's equivalent of hyper-speed with a two-year record (heading into last week's NFC Championship Game) of 32-4, an .889 percentage.



Michael Zagaris

Coach George Seifert: two seasons, matching 14-2 records.

The Team of the Decade is on the verge of becoming the Team of the Ages.

Of course, no one is more responsible for that achievement than Joe Montana, a man whose picture should be next to "legend" in the dictionary. He has won three Super Bowl MVP awards (which could have been four). He set an NFL record this year with his seventh 3,000-yard season, breaking his own club record with 3,944. He has 34,988 career passing yards in regular-season games and 4,568 in 18 playoff starts (not including last week). He has the highest career passer rating (just under 94) of any quarterback in the history of the NFL.

In 1990, when the 49ers' previously sweet running game turned sour, finishing eighteenth in the NFL, Montana almost literally carried the offense on his relatively unsubstantial shoulders. San Francisco's offense ranked second overall, thanks to the derring-do of Montana and Co.

Jerry Rice is Montana's ultimate company man. Rice caught 100 passes this season, a figure bettered only two times in the 71-year history of the NFL. Rice, the Super Bowl MVP the only time Montana wasn't (XXIII), is a lethal weapon on slants.

Montana's arsenal also includes emerging superstar tight end Brent Jones (56 catches), wide receiver John Taylor (49), and running backs Tom Rathman, Roger Craig, and Dexter Carter (combined 98).

The offensive line is quietly efficient. Guard Harris Barton is the standout of the group.

Montana is an extremely patient man who never panics, never gets careless. His cool is contagious among his teammates, including the club's defense.

"We look to him," admits inside linebacker Matt Millen. "We know that if we can keep 'em [opponents' points] down, we've always got a chance."

On normal teams, a defense as good as this one (third overall in the NFL) would get plenty of time in the spotlight. In San Francisco, only safety Ronnie Lott, like Montana a veteran of four Super Bowls, is a media star.

But the 49ers have four emerging superstars on defense. Keep an eye on ends Pierce Holt (third year) and Kevin Fagan (fourth), and outside linebackers Charles Haley (fifth) and Bill Romanowski (third). Haley, a roving recorder of sacks (he had 16; the rest of the team had 28), lines up at any of the front seven positions. He also forced 3 fumbles.

How long can the 49ers keep it going? The way they are playing it is almost as if they have seen the future and it is them. Only five starters, including the 34-year-old Montana, are over 30. And, like superb vintage wine, Montana really *does* keep getting better.

NEW YORK GIANTS

The New York Giants are a team of apparent contradictions. On one hand, they have been accused by many of being dull on offense, taking few chances, and heavily favoring the run over the pass. When they do throw a pass, they generally opt for short checkoffs or screens to the running backs. The busiest receiver on the offensive line is the tight end.

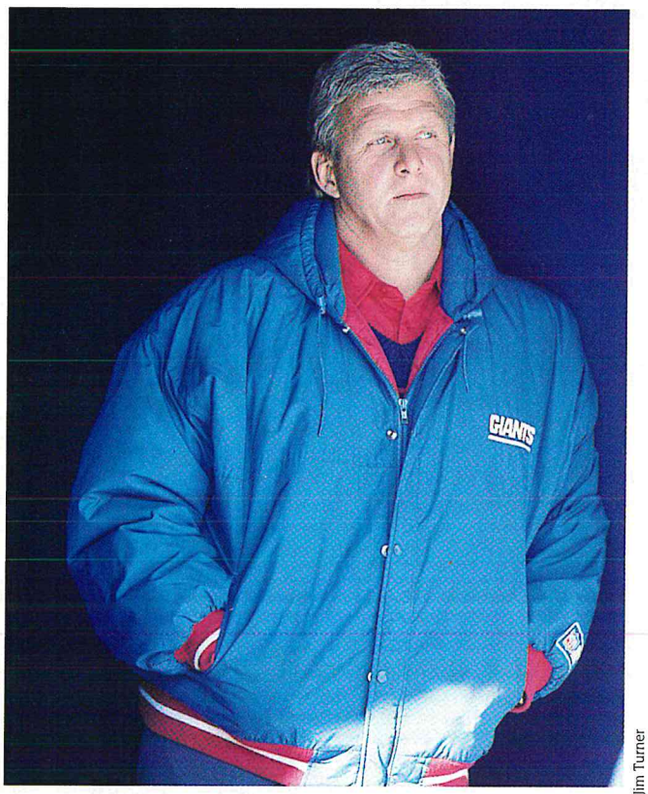
On the other hand, the Giants go for it on fourth down more than any other team in the playoffs (18 times during the regular season, 4 times against the Bears in an NFC Divisional Playoff Game).

On defense, New York generally goes into a game with a set defense and sticks with it, preferring guts to glitzy schemes. Yet the Giants gamble frequently, daring opponents to go deep by blitzing linebackers with abandon.

So which term most aptly describes the Giants, caution or risk, prudence or bravado?

Actually, it is all of the above, plus talent, consistency, intelligence, sound fundamentals, and careful preparation. But, above all, it is confidence.

Head coach Bill Parcells knows his team, what it can do, and when it can do it. Parcells has a reputation as a players' coach; he doesn't ask for miracles, he simply demands that each of his players performs up to his capability. The rest of the picture seems to fall into place—contradictions and all.



Jim Turner

Giants coach Bill Parcells lets his confidence be his guide.

In guiding the Giants to a 13-3 regular-season record and their third NFC East title in five seasons, Parcells built around the team's traditional strengths. On offense, those include a punishing running game, blockers who can take command of the line of scrimmage, and two fine quarterbacks in Phil Simms, who finished the season as the number-one-rated passer in the NFC (despite missing the final two games), and Jeff Hostetler, a veteran backup who adds a dimension of mobility to the passing game.

The primary source of defensive strength is the intimidating linebacking corps, led by AFC-NFC Pro Bowl institution Lawrence Taylor, arguably the most dominating defensive player in football, and first-time Pro Bowl selection Pepper Johnson. The defense was exceptional this season. It ranked first in the NFC, allowing the fewest points, first downs, and touchdowns in the NFL, and holding opponents to no more than a single touchdown in 10 games.

Then there's the special teams, featuring Sean Landeta, the leading punter in the NFC; David Meggett, the NFC kickoff return leader; and Reyna Thompson, the NFC's Pro Bowl special teams player.

If this sounds familiar, it should. This is the same basic formula—and much of the same personnel—that drove the Giants to victory in Super Bowl XXI.

And "basic" is the operative word here, particularly in reference to the offense. Ottis Anderson slams into the line behind a crushing lead block by Maurice Carthon. Simms or Hostetler throws a critical third-down pass to possession receiver extraordinaire Mark Bavaro, who makes the catch and drags a defender beyond the sideline yardsticks.

These are the plays the Giants rely on time and time again. Nothing fancy. No surprises. They're not trying to fool anybody...well, maybe sometimes. Such as when a frustrated opposing defense has had all the inside running it can take and is bunched up tight near the line of scrimmage. That's when the bomb goes to Stephen Baker, or when Meggett can turn a little flare pass into scoreboard fireworks.

The Giants will beat you, or, rarely in the past few years, you will beat them. But they will not beat themselves. They don't often make mistakes. New York had the fewest turnovers (14) in the NFL in 1990, and led the NFC in takeaway-giveaway ratio (plus 20).

Do the Giants have any weaknesses? Yes, like any team, they do. But they are extensions of their strengths. Consistency can become predictability, confidence can cross the line into recklessness.

But, because these are Bill Parcells's New York Giants, don't count on it.

PASSING

BILLS

Peter Brouillet

With quarterback Jim Kelly as the triggerman, the Bills have impressive weaponry to throw at any opponent.

Kelly finished as the top-rated passer in the NFL with a 101.2 final rating. His total yardage figure of 2,829 was deceiving because he ranked only ninth in the AFC. But he missed the final two games of the regular season after suffering a strained left knee in a 17-13 victory over the New York Giants on December 15. He didn't return until the opening playoff game against Miami, but he came back as good as ever, completing 19 of 29 passes for 339 yards and 3 touchdowns in a heavy snowstorm.

Kelly showed no lack of mobility and his passing was sharp. He likes to use the hurry-up offense when the opponent is not reacting well to it and the hurry-up stresses passing.

Kelly has wide receivers Andre Reed and James Lofton as his primary targets. Reed enjoyed an exceptional year, catching 71 passes for 945 yards, 8 touchdowns, and a 13.3-yard average.

Jim Kelly, the top-rated passer in the NFL in 1990, is fully recovered from a late-season knee injury.

Lofton, the 13-year veteran, returned to the form of his Green Bay heyday in the snow against Miami, but he showed all season that he still is a force, catching 35 passes for 712 yards and 4 touchdowns. He averaged 20.3 yards a catch, tops in the AFC.

Running back Thurman Thomas finished second among Bills receivers during the regular season, catching 49 passes for 532 yards and 2 touchdowns. He is the safety valve coming out of the backfield.

Tight end Keith McKeller also comes into the passing game on possession downs. He caught 34 during the year. Rookie Al Edwards will see duty as a deep receiver.

Is this the same Jay Schroeder who completed only 46.9 percent of his passes and threw 5 more interceptions than touchdowns in 1989? Well, sort of.

He's the same guy, but he is playing with a new level of confidence. Schroeder is an athletic quarterback with a powerful arm, but he had been plagued by inconsistency. This year, the Raiders hired veteran quarterbacks coach Mike White, then made it absolutely clear that Schroeder was the starter. As a result, Schroeder had the best season of his seven-year NFL career.

Schroeder's improvement mirrors that of the offensive line. A fiery bunch that emulates head coach and Hall of Fame tackle Art Shell, they allowed only 29 sacks of Schroeder in 1990.

Jay Schroeder finished fourth in the AFC with a 90.8 passer rating, the best mark of his career.

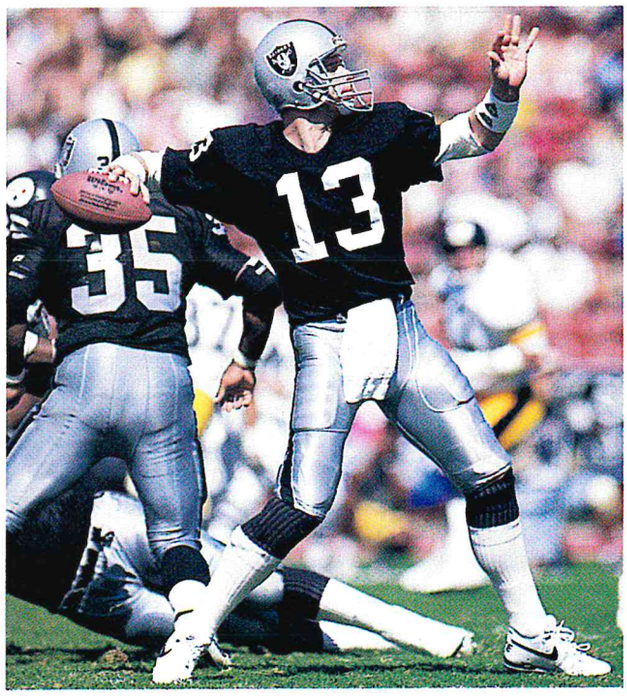
RAIDERS

Schroeder has quite a stable of receivers. Willie Gault, one of the fastest players in the NFL, caught 50 passes for 985 yards, both career bests. Mervyn Fernandez, an imposing target at 6-3, 200 pounds, specializes in medium-distance routes over the middle.

Tim Brown was the Raiders' late-season trump card. Brown was the forgotten man for most of 1990, but he caught 3 touchdown passes over the final four weeks. His re-emergence gives Los Angeles a deadly three-wide-receiver set on passing downs.

The tight end situation appeared gloomy when starter Mike Dyal tore his hamstring in week 2, but former running back Ethan Horton developed into a valuable pass-catcher.

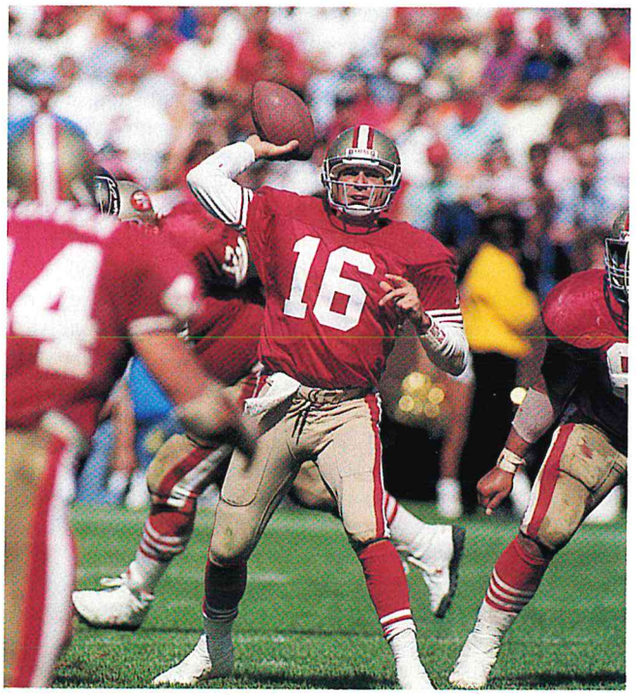
Simply put, the Raiders, don't throw very often (their 336 pass attempts were fewest in the NFL in 1990). This team is at its best when it is pounding out yardage on the ground and striking periodically with the long pass.



Peter Brouillet

PASSING

49ERS



George Rose

When you talk about the 49ers' passing game, where do you begin? The thing is, *everyone* gets into the act.

Of course, with quarterback Joe Montana there's plenty to go around. This year, perhaps more than ever, the 49ers relied on Montana's arm to take them to lofty heights. As the running game struggled, Montana passed for a career-high 3,944 yards while throwing 26 touchdown passes.

Wide receiver Jerry Rice caught an even 100 of Montana's passes, thus becoming only the fourth player in league history to reach the century mark. And with 13 touchdown catches, he raised his six-year career total to 79. By contrast, NFL record holder Steve Largent had 100 scoring receptions in a 14-year career.

John Taylor, intent at shedding an image as the "other" receiver, caught 49 passes, including 7 for touchdowns, despite missing two games and being hampered by injuries much of the year.

As their running game struggled, the 49ers relied on the passing of Joe Montana to take them to the playoffs.

Tight end Brent Jones (56 catches) has become one of Montana's favorite possession receivers. Roger Craig (25 receptions) and Tom Rathman (48) are joined by rookie Dexter Carter (25) as valuable receivers coming out of the backfield.

And if that's not enough, the 49ers received a big lift when Mike Sherrard (17 catches) returned from a broken leg in time for the playoffs, giving the club a third speedster among its wide receivers.

Montana remains a master at reading defenses and making the right decisions. To stop him, opponents must apply pressure up the middle, get in his face, and disrupt the timing he has developed with his receivers, taking away his options.

GIANTS

No matter whether Phil Simms or Jeff Hostetler is at quarterback, the Giants' passing attack will be secondary to the ground game. For them, the passing game actually is an extension of the running game.

The Giants don't think home-run ball as much as they think first down. They favor possession-type short passes and screens to the running backs or to tight end Mark Bavaro. When they do throw downfield, the play usually involves crossing patterns or turn-in routes. New York's average of 172.3 passing yards per game was below the league average of 194.8.

Running back David Meggett was the team's leading receiver in 1990 with 39 catches. Next came Bavaro with 33, then injured running back Rodney Hampton (32).

New York quarterback Phil Simms led NFC passers with a 92.7 rating. A foot injury sidelined him for the playoffs.

Wide receivers Stephen Baker and Mark Ingram each caught 26 passes, low for NFL starters. Running backs Ottis Anderson and Maurice Carthon also are targets coming out of the backfield, making 18 and 14 receptions, respectively. Bavaro and Ingram tied for the team lead with 5 touchdown receptions each.

Simms, the NFC's top-rated passer in 1990, primarily is a pocket passer who works out of the Shotgun on third-and-4-or-more yards to go. If he is able to play, the foot injury that kept him out of action since December 15 may slow him down. The Giants lose little with Hostetler as their starter. He's big (6-3, 212), experienced (7 years), and mobile, allowing New York to add more rollouts, bootlegs, and play-action to its mix. His rushing threat also serves to slow the pass rush.

Both passers are extremely accurate, combining for only 5 interceptions. Simms threw 4 of them and Hostetler 1.

Bill Cummings

RUSHING

BILLS

Al Messerschmidt

You can sum up Buffalo's rushing game in two words: Thurman Thomas.

A second-round draft choice of the Bills in 1988 who played ahead of Barry Sanders at Oklahoma State, Thomas was the AFC's leading rusher in 1990 (1,297 yards).

Thomas also is a threat coming out of the backfield on pass routes. His total of 1,829 rushing and receiving yards was the most in the NFL.

He runs behind a big and talented offensive line that does not receive nearly as much credit as it deserves.

The real size in the offensive line is on the right side, which is home for guard John Davis (6-4, 310) and tackle Howard Ballard (6-6, 325).

Left guard Jim Ritcher is the veteran of the group. A first-round pick (1980), he is completing his eleventh NFL season. A pair of five-year veterans, center Kent Hull and left tackle Will Wolford round out the interior line.

Thurman Thomas led the AFC in rushing (1,297 yards) and the NFL in total yards from scrimmage (1,829).

A complement to the running game is the blocking of tight end Keith McKeller and fullback Jamie Mueller.

Offensive coordinator Ted Marchibroda doesn't go overboard with reverses (he called four all year) but he will turn Thomas loose on draws and sweeps from the shotgun.

The game plan is simple: Get a push up front to allow Thomas to do his magic.

When Jim Kelly lines up under center with Thomas as the lone back, the tendency for the Bills is to run slants or straight ahead.

Despite the number of times Thomas handles the ball (57 percent of the carries and 62 percent of the yards during the regular season), he had only 6 fumbles.

RAIDERS

The popular image of the Raiders is of a team that likes to throw deep. While there is no denying their preference for the bomb, passing is not what has won them three Super Bowls.

Running the ball is how the Raiders win, and this season is no different. Of course, it helps to have two Heisman Trophy-winning running backs on your team.

Marcus Allen and Bo Jackson are a formidable one-two punch for Los Angeles. They rushed for a combined 1,380 yards and 17 touchdowns in 1990 while splitting time at running back over the last 10 games of the season.

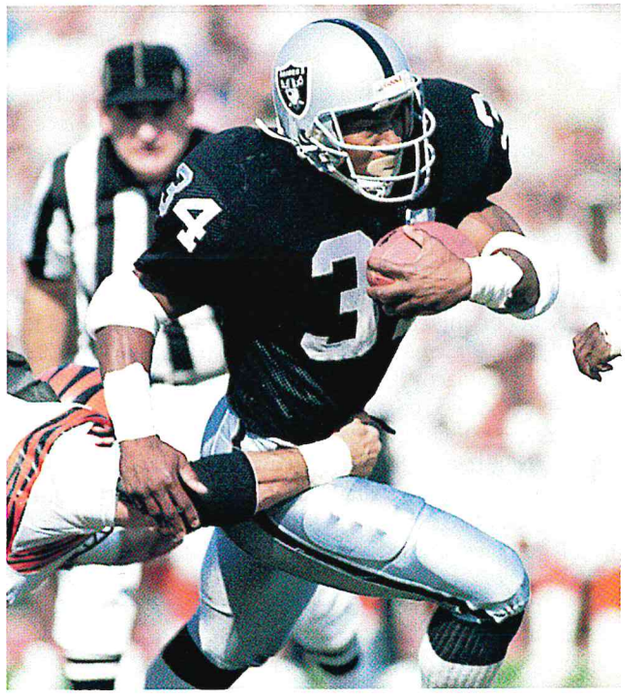
Regardless of which one is in the game, the Raiders basically run the same offense, though they tend to call more outside runs with Jackson in the lineup.

Because of his speed and power, Bo Jackson is a threat to score every time he touches the football.

Jackson and Allen share their position, but one player who is on the field for every play is Steve Smith. Though he doesn't get many carries, Smith is the key to Los Angeles' ground attack, because it is his responsibility to block at the point of attack on almost every running play. It is a job he performs extremely well.

The same could be said of the offensive line, a big, aggressive group about whom finesse is not an apt description. They fire out off the line and try to knock defenders on their backs, succeeding more often than not. Included in the line are Pro Bowl center Don Mosebar and Pro Bowl guard Steve Wisniewski.

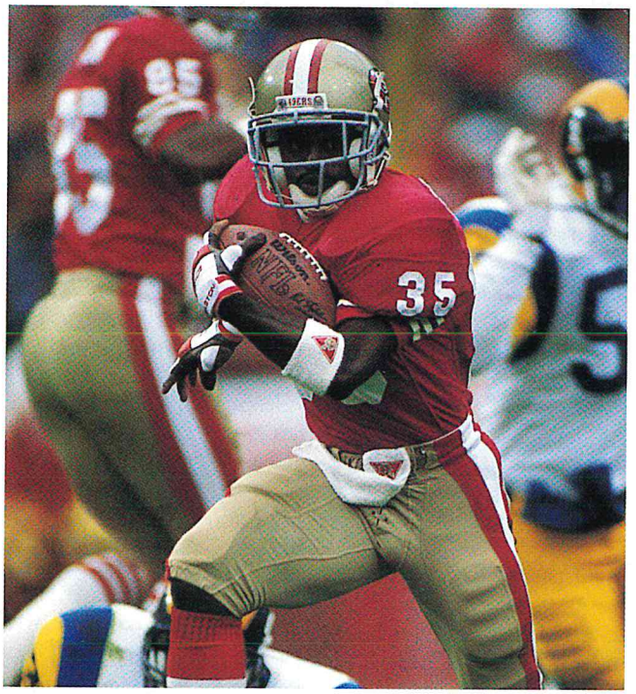
But the man who solidified the line for the Raiders was veteran Max Montoya, a Plan B acquisition from the Bengals. With Montoya at right guard, the Raiders became more of a trapping team in 1990, resulting in some big gains.



Peter Brouillet

RUSHING

49ERS



Michael Zagaris

The 1990 49ers make no pretenses about it--particularly now that it is playoff time: They are not a running football team.

San Francisco ranked eighteenth in the NFL this season, averaging only 107.4 yards per game on the ground. And their per-carry average of 3.8 was better than only three other teams. Still, the 49ers *can* run, as they proved late in the season, when they ran for 655 yards in the final four games, an average of 163.8.

Venerable Roger Craig (439 yards, 3.1 yards per carry, 1 touchdown) has lost a step, the pounding of eight NFL seasons finally having taken their toll. Craig had not missed a game in his career until he missed five with a variety of injuries this year.

Craig is a big-game player, however, as is his backfield mate, fullback Tom Rathman (318 yards, 7 touchdowns), the man the 49ers go to when they need the tough yards, especially near the goal line.

Rookie Dexter Carter led the 49ers in rushing and added game-breaking potential to the team's attack.

In contrast, rookie Dexter Carter is a shifty, darting runner who adds explosiveness to the attack. Carter gives the 49ers a pair of fresh legs to go to in the second half. He led the club with 460 rushing yards and had a 74-yard touchdown run en route to a 124-yard rushing performance in a victory over the Rams.

Quarterback Joe Montana (162 yards, 4.1 yards per carry) remains mobile, though he is less inclined to run than in the past.

Up front, the 49ers junked the platoon system that marked their offensive line of a year ago and started the same five players all year: tackles Bubba Paris and Steve Wallace, guards Guy McIntyre and Harris Barton, and center Jesse Sapolu. McIntyre is headed to the Pro Bowl for the second consecutive year.

GIANTS

New York is not a fancy rushing team that relies on sweeps and misdirection plays, but instead likes to pound the ball inside between the tackles in an effort to wear down opposing defenses. Once the Giants gain control of the line of scrimmage, they will be difficult to beat because their passing game then becomes that much tougher to stop.

New York is led on the ground by 12-year veteran Ottis Anderson, the Giants' leading rusher during the regular season with 784 yards and 11 touchdowns.

Anderson, who gained only 932 yards rushing between 1985-88 when many thought his career was at an end, passed the 10,000-yard mark in a season in which he turned 33. A gutty, give-me-the-ball type of back, he is Bill Parcells's main man.

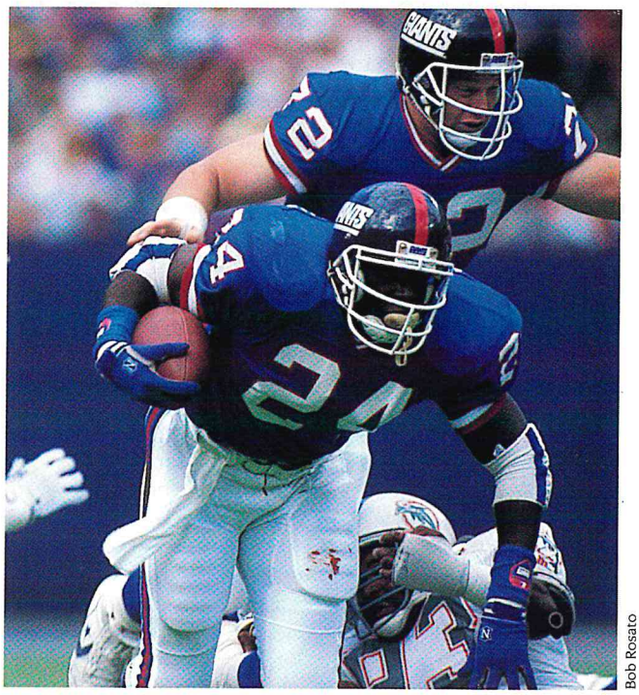
Giants leading rusher Ottis Anderson does his most effective running between the tackles.

The Giants, who like to rotate Anderson with Rodney Hampton (455 yards rushing) and David Meggett (231), were dealt a serious blow when Hampton broke his fibula during the NFC Divisional Playoff Game against the Bears and was lost for the season. Meggett should see more playing time along with second-year player Lewis Tillman (231 yards).

The Giants' other starting back is Maurice Carthon, an excellent blocker who runs the ball primarily in short-yardage situations.

Another weapon the Giants will utilize is the running and scrambling ability of quarterback Jeff Hostetler (190 yards in 1990), if he continues to play in place of injured starter Phil Simms.

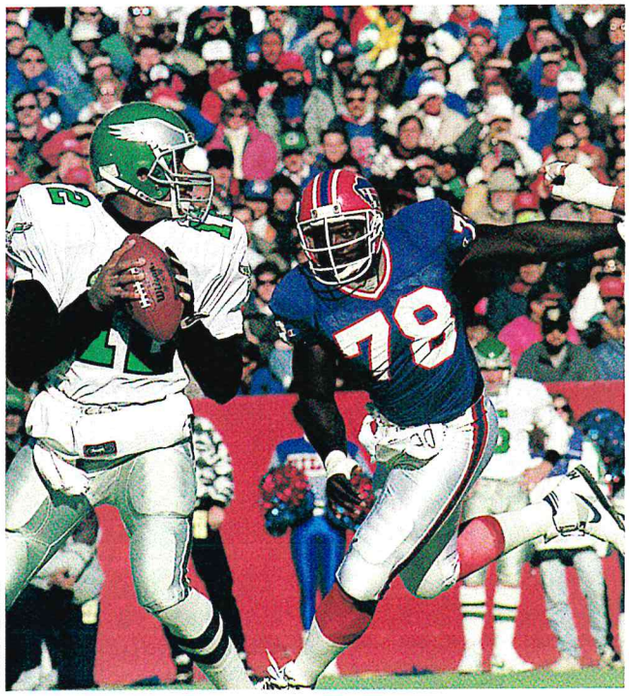
The huge offensive line led by Pro Bowl center Bart Oates and left tackle John Elliott (6-7, 305 pounds), helped New York finish eighth in the NFL with an average of 128.1 rushing yards per game.



Bob Rosato

PASSING DEFENSE

BILLS



Robert B. Shaver

Even the Eagles' Randall Cunningham couldn't avoid the Bills' Bruce Smith (78), who finished with 19 sacks.

Bills defensive coordinator Walt Corey doesn't resort to many gimmicks. It's not necessary. Man-for-man, he has one of the NFL's elite defenses.

The linchpin of the group is right end Bruce Smith, who says he's the league's best defensive player. Smith led Buffalo with 19 sacks (second in the NFL) and 82 unassisted tackles.

Nose tackle Jeff Wright (5) and left end Leon Seals (4) added 9 sacks to the Buffalo rush.

Experts throughout the league call Buffalo's linebacking corps—Darryl Talley and Cornelius Bennett outside and Ray Bentley and Shane Conlan inside—the NFL's best .

Buffalo's defense is extremely basic. Corey calls very few blitzes, but you can expect to see one linebacker on the move from the 3-4 set on every down.

The Bills' 43 sacks ranked ninth in the NFL, and the starting linebackers combined to total only 9 during the regular season, 4 each by Talley and Bennett and 1 by Conlan.

On first and second downs, Buffalo uses a zone that combines the exceptional talents of cornerbacks Kirby Jackson (the leading interceptor with 3) and Nate Odomes and safeties Mark Kelso and Leonard Smith.

In Nickel and Dime passing situations, the tendency is to use man-to-man or some combination of zones.

Substitutions in passing situations include rookie James Williams and Clifford Hicks in the secondary. Conlan and Bentley leave and Bennett moves to down lineman.

Williams picked up valuable experience late in the season, starting at cornerback in place of Jackson, who missed four games with a hamstring injury.

RAIDERS

Looks can be deceiving when it comes to the NFL's fourth-ranked pass defense. Although they appear to be the Raiders of yesteryear, playing their trademark bump-and-run pass coverage, they now are more likely to be found in a zone, or a combination of zone and man-to-man coverages.

In most other areas, however, this is a typical Raiders defense. It is an aggressive unit, more concerned with attacking than reacting. With starters Terry McDaniel and Lionel Washington, plus rookies Garry Lewis and Torin Dorn, Los Angeles, as usual, has an excellent group of cornerbacks.

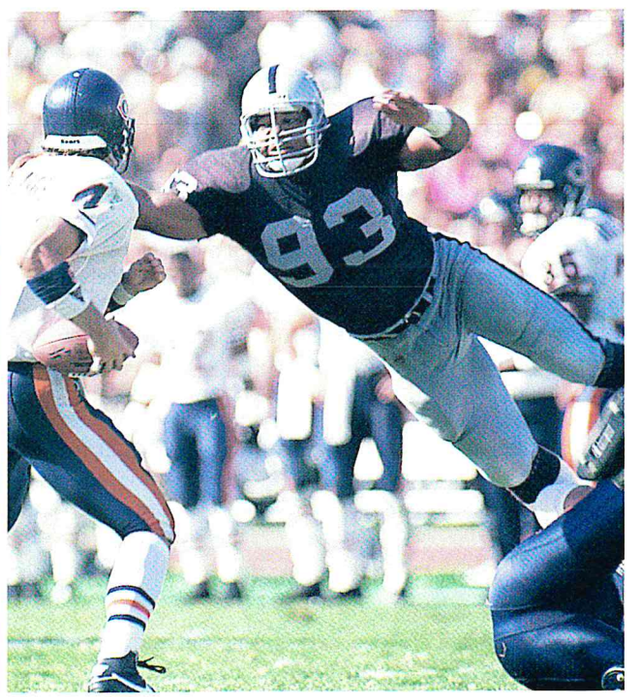
Safeties Mike Harden and Eddie Anderson cover the deep zones, with Harden often given the responsibility of covering a running back and Anderson playing the role of enforcer, punishing receivers with jarring hits over the middle.

Pressure on the quarterback is provided mostly by the defensive linemen. Greg Townsend, who led the team with 12½ sacks, will line up at either end depending on where he can get the best matchup.

Although the Raiders usually blitz only inside their 20-yard line, defensive coordinator Dave Adolph employs numerous stunts to confuse opponents' blocking schemes and free one of the linemen. The Raiders also use Aaron Wallace as their pass-rush specialist in passing situations. The rookie finished third on the team with 9 sacks.

Linebackers Tom Benson, Riki Ellison, and Jerry Robinson are responsible for the short zones. When the Raiders go to six defensive backs, Benson and Ellison come out, leaving Robinson as the only linebacker.

Greg Townsend (93) soared to new heights in 1990, recording 12½ sacks to earn his first Pro Bowl bid.



Aggie Skirball

PASSING DEFENSE

49ERS

Michael Zagaris

The 49ers' passing defense ranked a so-so twelfth in the NFL in 1990, allowing 188.4 yards per game.

That's a bit misleading, however. Opponents often were either unable to run against San Francisco's stingy rushing defense and forced to take to the air, or found themselves trailing late in the game and having to play catch-up.

Witness the playoff game against the Redskins. Washington quarterback Mark Rypien passed for an impressive 361 yards, but after the opening drive of the game, could not score a touchdown as the 49ers' secondary made the big plays, intercepting two passes in the end zone.

When talking about big plays, start with free safety Ronnie Lott, who still is the pulse of the 49ers' defense at age 31. Lott posted 53 tackles and 3 interceptions in 11 games in 1990. Strong safety Dave Waymer proved to be a valuable Plan B acquisition, intercepting a team-high 7 passes and filling in for injured Chet Brooks. The corners are manned by Darryl Pollard (74 tackles) and Don Griffin (19 pass deflections).

Versatile outside linebacker Charles Haley emerged as one of the NFL's dominant defensive players in 1990.

Up front, a vastly underrated defensive line and the emergence of Charles Haley as one of the league's top defensive players helped the club produce 44 sacks.

Haley, who's listed as an outside linebacker, led the way, topping all NFC pass rushers with a career-high 16 sacks. His ability to line up in various spots and play either as a down lineman or stand-up linebacker gives the defense a great deal of flexibility.

Ends Kevin Fagan (9 sacks), Pierce Holt (6), and rookie Dennis Brown (6) add to the 49ers' formidable pass rush.

GIANTS

At the end of the 1989 season, it looked as if former Dallas Cowboys cornerback Everson Walls's career had come to an end. After nine outstanding seasons with the Cowboys in which he led the NFL in interceptions three times (an NFL record) and intercepted 44 passes, Dallas released Walls.

During the offseason, the Giants decided to sign the 10-year veteran in hopes he would bring some stability to New York's young secondary. Walls did that— and much more.

The 31-year-old veteran, who always seems to be in the right place at the right time, led the Giants with 6 interceptions and helped New York rank sixth against the pass in the NFL (171.7 yards per game).

Walls also helped the other members of the secondary— cornerback Mark Collins, and hard-hitting second-year safeties Greg Jackson (the team's second-leading tackler with 87) and Myron Guyton—mature into one of the NFL's top units.

Depending on the situation, the Giants will use five or six defensive backs.

When New York goes to a Nickel package (five defensive backs), cornerback Perry Williams will enter the game. When they go to the Dime (six backs), Williams and safety Dave Duerson are used.

The one Giants player opposing offenses always must account for on passing downs is linebacker Lawrence Taylor. Taylor, who led the Giants with 10½ sacks during the regular season (he has 124½ in his career), still is one of the NFL's most imposing pass rushers.

End Leonard Marshall and safety Jackson both had 4 sacks to finish second on the team, which had a total of 30 sacks.

The Giants' defense, which finished sixth against the pass in 1990, was led by cornerback Everson Walls (28).

Jim Turner

RUSHING DEFENSE

BILLS

Pete J. Groh

Shane Conlan (58), shown here stopping a Jets' running back, is one of two Pro Bowl linebackers on the Bills.

Buffalo's run defense hinges on the ability of the front seven to control the line of scrimmage. And who's better at leading the charge than the dominating Bruce Smith, who is as fast as anyone his size in the NFL?

Smith roams from sideline to sideline, wreaking havoc on all blocking schemes. He has seen double teams, triple teams, and combination blocks from linemen, tight ends, and backs.

Smith's partners in the three-man front are nose tackle Jeff Wright and left end Leon Seals, who is at his best against the run. They combined for 168 total tackles and 2 fumble recoveries during the regular season.

Smith's presence is balanced on the left side by outside linebacker Cornelius Bennett, who came to Buffalo in the 1987 trade with the Colts and Rams involving Eric Dickerson.

Bennett, a force against the run, had 71 unassisted tackles during the regular season. He will play in the 1991 AFC-NFC Pro Bowl along with defensive teammates Smith and left inside linebacker Shane Conlan.

The aggressive secondary is led by eight-year veteran strong safety Leonard Smith, a hard hitter who forced 3 fumbles during the regular season and was third on the team in tackles (98) behind linebacker Darryl Talley (123) and Bruce Smith (101).

If Buffalo has a defensive weakness, the critics would point to its inability to stop the run. The statistics are not especially overwhelming.

Of all the teams in the 1990 NFL playoffs, only Cincinnati allowed more rushing touchdowns than the Bills' 13. And Buffalo ranked seventh in the AFC and fifteenth in the NFL in rushing yardage allowed.

RAIDERS

The Raiders play the run the way they play everything else—aggressively, and to the point.

Although they finished fourteenth in the NFL in rushing defense, for the most part Los Angeles didn't get hurt by opponents' running attacks. The defense allowed only 107.3 rushing yards per game, certainly an acceptable figure.

It is especially acceptable for the Raiders. The top priority of their linemen is to rush the passer, which means their assignments are not to read blocks but rather to drive straight up the field. The Raiders' motto can be summed up as "Attack and Hope We Can React to the Run."

Such a plan has certain drawbacks, among them vulnerability to traps, draws, and play-action passes. But the scheme also results in tackles for losses in the backfield and pressure on the quarterback without resorting to blitzes.

The Raiders' four-man line of Howie Long, Scott Davis, Bob Golic, and Greg Townsend is the key to the run defense. It is their job to penetrate and disrupt running plays behind the line, holding them up long enough for teammates to swarm the ball carrier.

Behind these four are linebackers Tom Benson, Riki Ellison, and Jerry Robinson. Though they sometimes are burned by their own aggressiveness, they are a smart group that doesn't make many mistakes.

The same goes for the secondary. Because of the Raiders' attacking style of play, the defensive backs often make plays on running backs behind the line of scrimmage. Coming at that speed, their tackles tend to be of the jarring variety, especially strong safety Mike Harden's.

Howie Long (75) & Co. demonstrate how to gang tackle as they swarm a Broncos' running back.

Paul Jasienski

RUSHING DEFENSE

49ERS

Bob Rosato

Intense inside linebacker Matt Millen keys the 49ers' rushing defense, the NFL's second-best in 1990.

The 49ers have been the dominant franchise in the NFL for the past decade. It's no coincidence that their defense has been one of the league's best over that same span.

Trouble is, no one seems to notice. After all, when the offense features the likes of Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, and Roger Craig, it's going to grab most of the headlines.

Excluding free safety Ronnie Lott, San Francisco's defense is a unit largely without marquee names. But the 49ers ranked third in the NFL in total defense in 1990, and have finished at least sixth in the league in that category since 1985.

San Francisco sticks to the basics, using a 3-4 with an occasional Nickel or other multiple-defensive-back scheme. Otherwise, they don't do anything fancy, they just do it well.

They played particularly well against the run this season, allowing only 78.6 yards per game, to rank second in the NFL.

Outside linebacker Bill Romanowski is a solid player who led the club with 79 tackles, while inside linebacker Matt Millen (62 tackles) and 285-pound nose tackle Michael Carter (27 tackles) plug the middle. They receive ample help from defensive ends Kevin Fagan (63 stops) and Pierce Holt (51), and outside linebacker Charles Haley (58), all of whom enjoyed outstanding seasons.

Lott, now 31 and slowed by knee injuries (he missed the final four games of the regular season but returned in time for the playoffs), is the heart and soul of the unit, an aggressive, intimidating player who remains one of the fiercest hitters in the league. He's a coach out on the field, and the 49ers' defense reflects him: tough, smart, no-nonsense.

GIANTS

In 1990, the Giants had one of the stingiest defenses against the run in the National Football League. The hard-hitting unit gave up only 91.2 yards a game (fourth best in the league) and 3.8 yards a carry (fourth in the NFL).

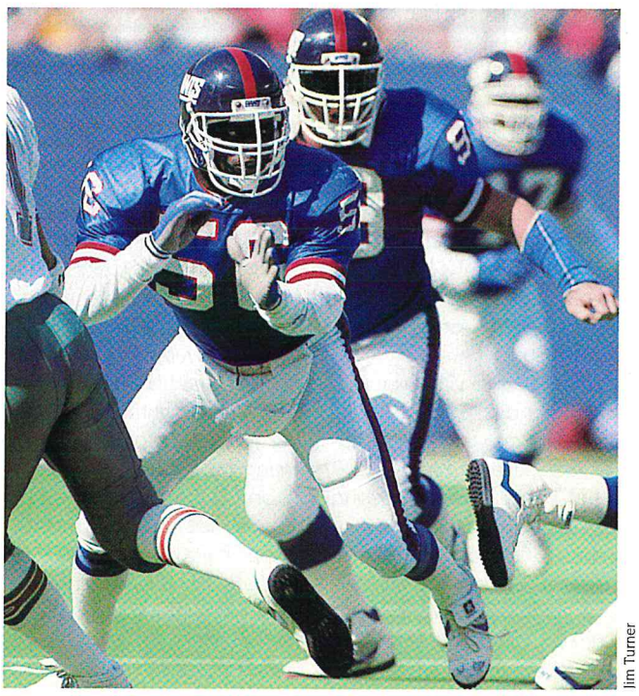
The strength of New York's rushing defense is its outstanding linebacker corps. Inside linebackers Pepper Johnson, who led the team in tackles with 119 during the regular season and was named to his first Pro Bowl, and former Cowboy Steve DeOssie, play the run extremely well. They always seem to be around the ball. Outside linebackers Lawrence Taylor, named to his tenth consecutive Pro Bowl in 1990, and Carl Banks, who is finally back at full strength after missing seven games with a broken wrist, are quick to read and react. Both men pursue the ball very well.

The Giants' linebackers, led by Lawrence Taylor, were one of the NFL's toughest units against the run in 1990.

New York usually will line up in a standard 3-4 set with a defensive line of ends John Washington (6-4, 275) and Eric Dorsey (6-5, 280), and nose tackle Erik Howard (6-4, 268). All three players have excellent quickness and are strong at the point of attack. Howard led the Giants' linemen in tackles during the regular season with 71 (fifth best on the squad).

Against the Bears in the NFC Divisional Playoff, New York changed up and went primarily to a 4-3 alignment to try to take Neal Anderson and the Bears' powerful running attack out of the game and make Chicago throw the ball. It worked: The Bears gained only 27 yards in 16 carries.

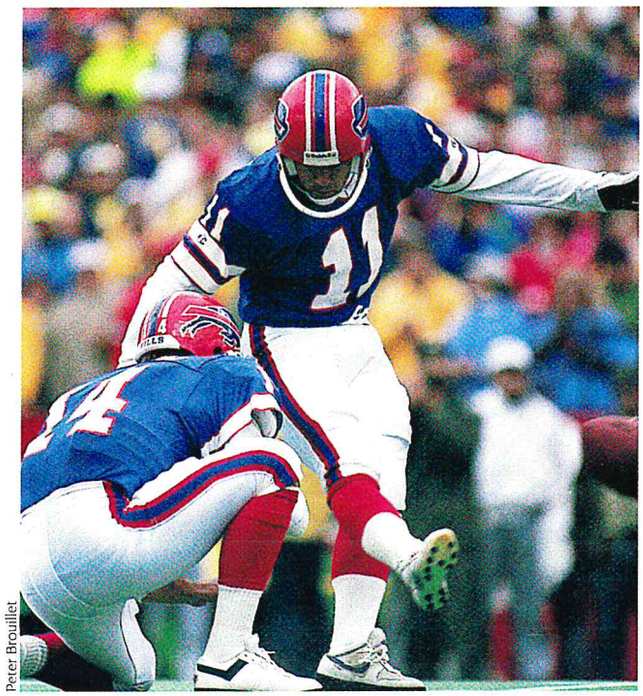
In the 4-3 defense, veteran Leonard Marshall (6-3, 285) and Washington started at end with Howard and rookie Mike Fox (6-6, 275) at the tackles.



Jim Turner

SPECIAL TEAMS

BILLS



Peter Brouillet

When you consider Buffalo's special teams, one man quickly comes to mind—1991 Pro Bowl selectee Steve Tasker. He was one of the standouts during a season in which the Bills' special teams were consistent but not spectacular.

Excellent on kickoff and punt returns, Tasker always seems to be in the face of opposing kick returners and kickers. In an October game against the Raiders (Buffalo's AFC Championship Game opponent), he helped power the Bills' 24-point burst and a 38-24 victory with a blocked punt.

In another crucial, early season comeback win, the Bills blocked a field goal against Denver that began a barrage of 3 touchdowns in a 77-second stretch of the fourth quarter.

Buffalo finished first in the NFL in kickoff coverage, allowing only 15.7 yards per return, but was fourteenth in punt coverage, allowing 8.1 yards per return.

Kicker Scott Norwood is the Bills' all-time leading scorer and was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1988.

Kicker Scott Norwood's season was indicative of the Bills' special-teams play—steady and solid. He connected on 50 of 52 extra-point attempts and 20 of 29 field-goal tries. Not known for distance, Norwood's accuracy inside 40 yards helped him total 110 points, second best in the AFC.

Punter Rick Tuten didn't start the season with Buffalo, arriving in week 3. He finished ninth in the AFC, averaging 39.8 yards per kick, and his net average of 34.2 ranked eighth. Adam Lingner gives Buffalo an accurate snapper to get Tuten the ball.

Don Smith, a reliable kickoff returner, tied for ninth in the AFC in kickoff returns with a 20.1 average. Rookie Al Edwards (6.6 average on punt returns) protects the ball and works hard to overcome his inexperience.

RAIDERS

After missing the 1989 season with a knee injury, Tim Brown, the Raiders' number-one draft choice and Pro Bowl kick returner in 1988, returned in 1990 to add more excitement to Los Angeles's special teams.

A big-play performer with excellent hands, Brown gives the Raiders their biggest marquee name on special teams since punter Ray Guy.

The offseason acquisitions of Jamie Holland (from the San Diego Chargers) and Ron Brown (Plan B) enabled the Raiders to use Tim Brown exclusively on punt returns. It proved to be a formidable group. Holland ranked sixth in the AFC with a 20.5 average on kickoff returns, and when Ron Brown (19.2 average) had the ball, the Raiders hardly lost a step. Tim Brown was back in form on punt returns, finishing tied for fourth in the AFC with an 8.7 average.

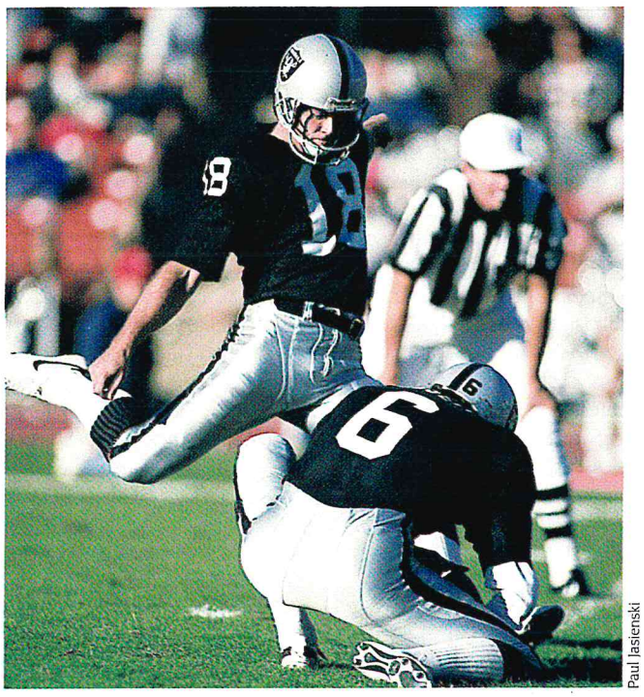
Jeff Jaeger kicked 25- and 49-yard field goals in the Raiders' AFC playoff win over Cincinnati.

With kicker Jeff Jaeger, the Raiders are not afraid to attempt a long field goal. Jaeger demonstrated good consistency in 1990, connecting on 40 of 42 extra points and 15 of 20 field goals for a total of 85 points, tenth in the AFC.

While it is hard to follow the standard set by Guy, Jeff Gossett has given Los Angeles a very good directional punter. His ability to place the ball inside the opponents' 20 overshadows his low 38.6-yard average (twelfth in the AFC) and mediocre 33.6-yard net average (tenth in the AFC).

The Raiders' punt coverage ranked third in the NFL. Led by Vance Mueller, Dan Land, Elvis Patterson, and Aaron Wallace, Los Angeles allowed opponents only 6.4 yards per return.

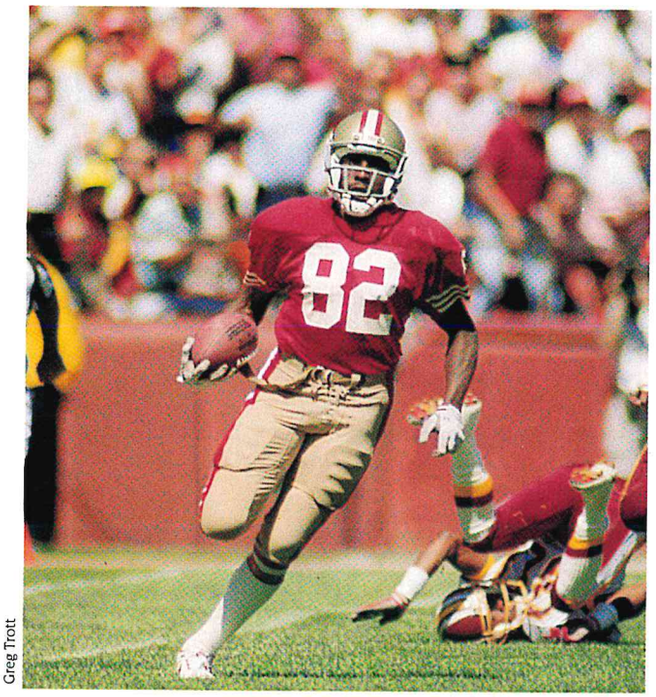
Kickoffs were a different story. Allowing an average of 20.9 yards per return, the Raiders finished twenty-fourth in the NFL.



Paul Jasienski

SPECIAL TEAMS

49ERS



Greg Trott

John Taylor (82) owns the Super Bowl record with a 45-yard punt return, and was a 1989 Pro Bowl selection.

Repeating as Super Bowl champions is a difficult task, and with every team in the NFL gunning for them, the 49ers had to rely on the leg of kicker Mike Cofer to give them that chance.

Cofer was coming off a season in 1989 in which he led the NFL in scoring with 136 points. While his 1990 point production fell to 111 points, fourth in the NFL, his value to the 49ers rose.

Quarterback Joe Montana is known for his last-minute heroics and Cofer was there to give Montana the points he needed three times in 1990.

In a win against Washington in week 2, he kicked 4 field goals. For the year, he was perfect on extra points (39 of 39). He also made 24 of 36 field goals, one for an NFL-best 56 yards.

Spearheaded by special teams captain Spencer Tillman, Darryl Pollard, and Keith DeLong, the 49ers' punt coverage gave up only 7.2 yards per punt (fifth in the NFC), which made up for a rough year by punter Barry Helton, who finished last in the NFL with a 36.8-yard average and a 30.9-yard net average.

San Francisco's kickoff coverage, which gave up 19.5 yards per kick return, ranked seventeenth in the NFL.

Elusive John Taylor, who was selected to the 1989 Pro Bowl as a kick returner, was hampered by nagging injuries all season, and his average dropped from 11.6 to 8.2 yards a return. A dangerous return man who always is a threat to break one, Taylor still finished seventh in the NFC.

While Taylor handled punt returns, rookie first-round pick Dexter Carter stepped in to handle kickoff returns. He set a 49ers record with 41 returns, averaging 19.1 yards each time he touched the ball.

Sometimes it doesn't take first-round draft choices and high-priced players to become great. In the case of the Giants' special teams, it took three free agents and a fifth-round draft choice.

New York might have the best overall special teams play of any team in the NFL.

Punter Sean Landeta broke onto the scene with the Giants in 1985 and has put to rest any questions about the punting game. Landeta made the 1991 Pro Bowl by finishing first in the NFC and second in the NFL with a 44.1-yard average. His net average of 37.3 ranked fourth in the NFL, and he had none blocked.

More important, he gave the Giants the edge in the battle for field position by leading the NFL with 24 punts inside the 20 and 11 touchbacks.

A big-play threat, David Meggett (30) finished third in the NFL in both punt and kickoff returns.

GIANTS

Reyna Thompson came to the Giants as a Plan B pickup in 1989. John Madden calls him "the best special teams player that ever played the game." Thompson's relentless pursuit and jarring hits on kick coverage also earned him a spot on the 1991 Pro Bowl team.

When kicker Raul Allegre was hurt following the third game of the season, the Giants signed seasoned veteran Matt Bahr, who gave New York a solid and reliable season, converting 29 of 30 extra points and totaling 80 points. He made 17 of 23 field goals, but inside the 40 he was a perfect 12 of 12.

Dave Meggett is the last piece to the puzzle. Although he did not repeat as the Pro Bowl kick returner, his numbers were equally impressive. Meggett finished third in the NFL with a 23.4-yard average on kickoff returns and a 10.9-yard average on punt returns, including a 68-yard touchdown.

Jim Turner

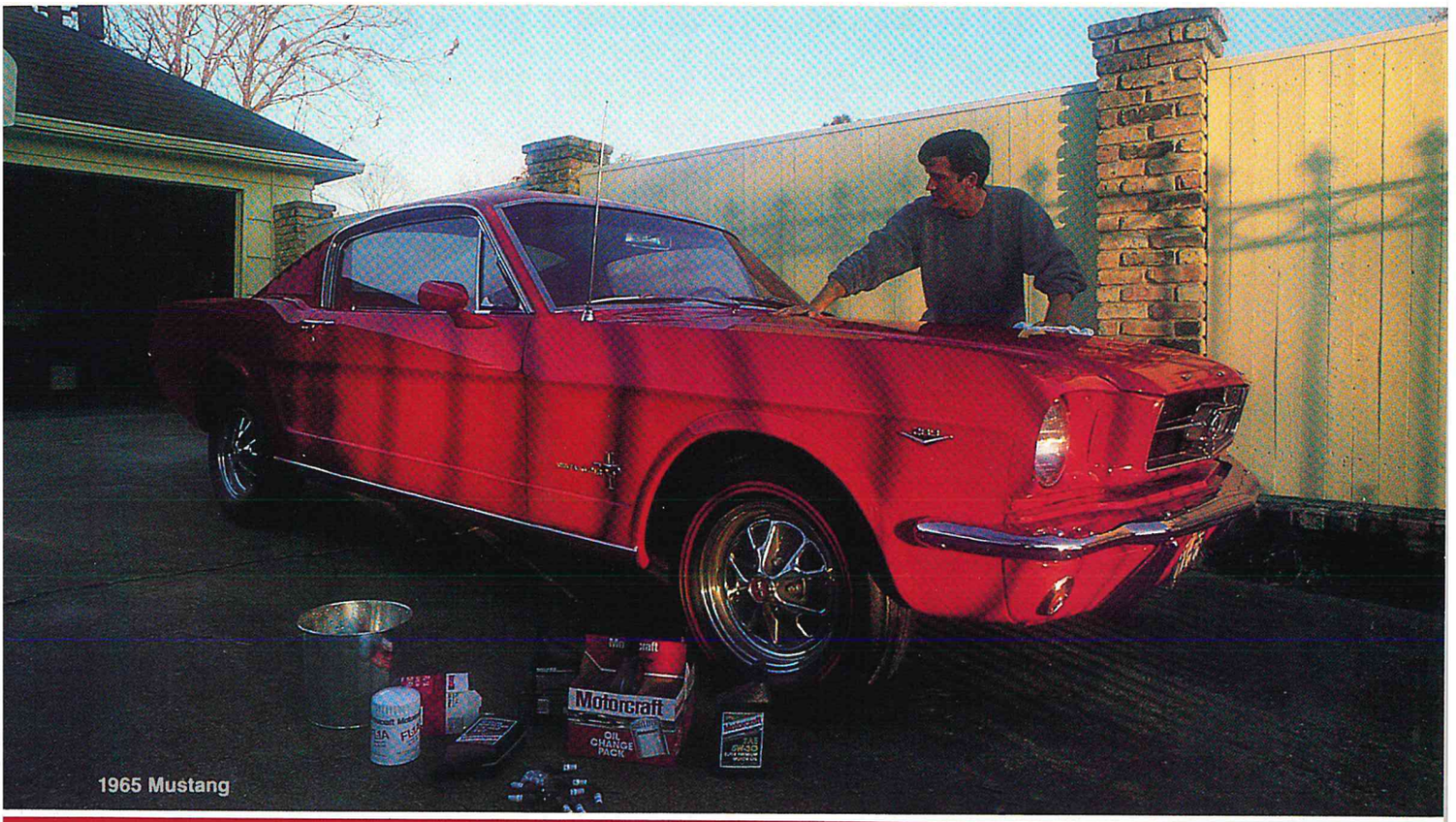
How They Were Built

BILLS

Year	Draft (26)	Trade (3)	Free Agents (18)
1980 11-5 1st, AFC East	G Jim Ritcher (1)		
1981 10-6 3rd, AFC East			
1982 4-5 9th, AFC Regular Season			
1983 8-8 3rd, AFC East	QB Jim Kelly (1B) LB Darryl Talley (2)		
1984 2-14 5th, AFC East			
1985 2-14 5th, AFC East	DE Bruce Smith (1A) QB Frank Reich (3A) LB Hal Garner (3B) WR Andre Reed (4A)	TE Pete Metzelaars (from Seattle)	K Scott Norwood
1986 4-12 4th, AFC East	T Will Wolford (1B) DE Mark Pike (7B) TE Butch Rolle (7C)		LB Ray Bentley S Dwight Drane C Kent Hull S Mark Kelso WR Steve Tasker
1987 7-8 4th, AFC East	LB Shane Conlan (1) CB Nate Odomes (2A) RB Jamie Mueller (3B) DE Leon Seals (4) TE Keith McKeller (9) T Howard Ballard (11)	LB Cornelius Bennett (from Indianapolis)	CB Kirby Jackson
1988 13-5 1st, AFC East	RB Thurman Thomas (2) S John Hagy (8) NT Jeff Wright (8B) LB Carlton Bailey (9)	S Leonard Smith (from Phoenix)	
1989 9-8 1st, AFC East			G-T John Davis RB Kenneth Davis G Mitch Frerotte QB Gale Gilbert C Adam Lingner WR James Lofton
1990 14-3 1st, AFC East	CB James Williams (1) RB Carwell Gardner (2) T Glenn Parker (3) LB Marvcus Patton (8) DT Mike Lodish (10) WR Al Edwards (11)		NT Gary Baldinger CB Clifford Hicks CB David Pool RB Don Smith P Rick Tuten

RAIDERS

Year	Draft (19)	Trade (8)	Free Agents (20)
1981 7-9 4th, AFC West	DE Howie Long (2)		
1982 9-2 1st, AFC Regular Season	RB Marcus Allen (1)		
1983 15-4 Super Bowl XVIII Champions	C Don Mosebar (1) DT Bill Pickel (2) DE Greg Townsend (4) WR Mervyn Fernandez (10)		
1984 11-6 3rd, AFC West			
1985 12-5 1st, AFC West		LB Jerry Robinson (from Philadelphia)	
1986 8-8 4th, AFC West	DE Mike Wise (4A) RB Vance Mueller (4B) RB Bo Jackson (7)		
1987 5-10 4th, AFC West	T Bruce Wilkerson (2) RB Steve Smith (3) QB Steve Beuerlein (4)	CB Lionel Washington (from St. Louis)	S Eddie Anderson
1988 7-9 3rd, AFC West	WR Tim Brown (1A) CB Terry McDaniel (1B) DE Scott Davis (1C)	WR Willie Gault (from Chicago) P Jeff Gossett (from Houston) QB Jay Schroeder (from Washington)	T Rory Graves T Steve Wright TE Mike Dyal
1989 8-8 3rd, AFC West	G Steve Wisniewski (2)		LB Tom Benson DT Bob Golic WR Sam Graddy S Mike Harden TE Ethan Horton K Jeff Jaeger S Dan Land C Dan Turk
1990 13-4 1st, AFC West	LB Aaron Wallace (2) CB Torin Dorn (4) CB Garry Lewis (7)	LB Alex Gordon (from N.Y. Jets) WR Jamie Holland (from San Diego) RB Napoleon McCallum (from San Diego)	CB Ron Brown LB Riki Ellison QB Vince Evans T James FitzPatrick LB Darin Jordan G Max Montoya S Elvis Patterson G Todd Peat



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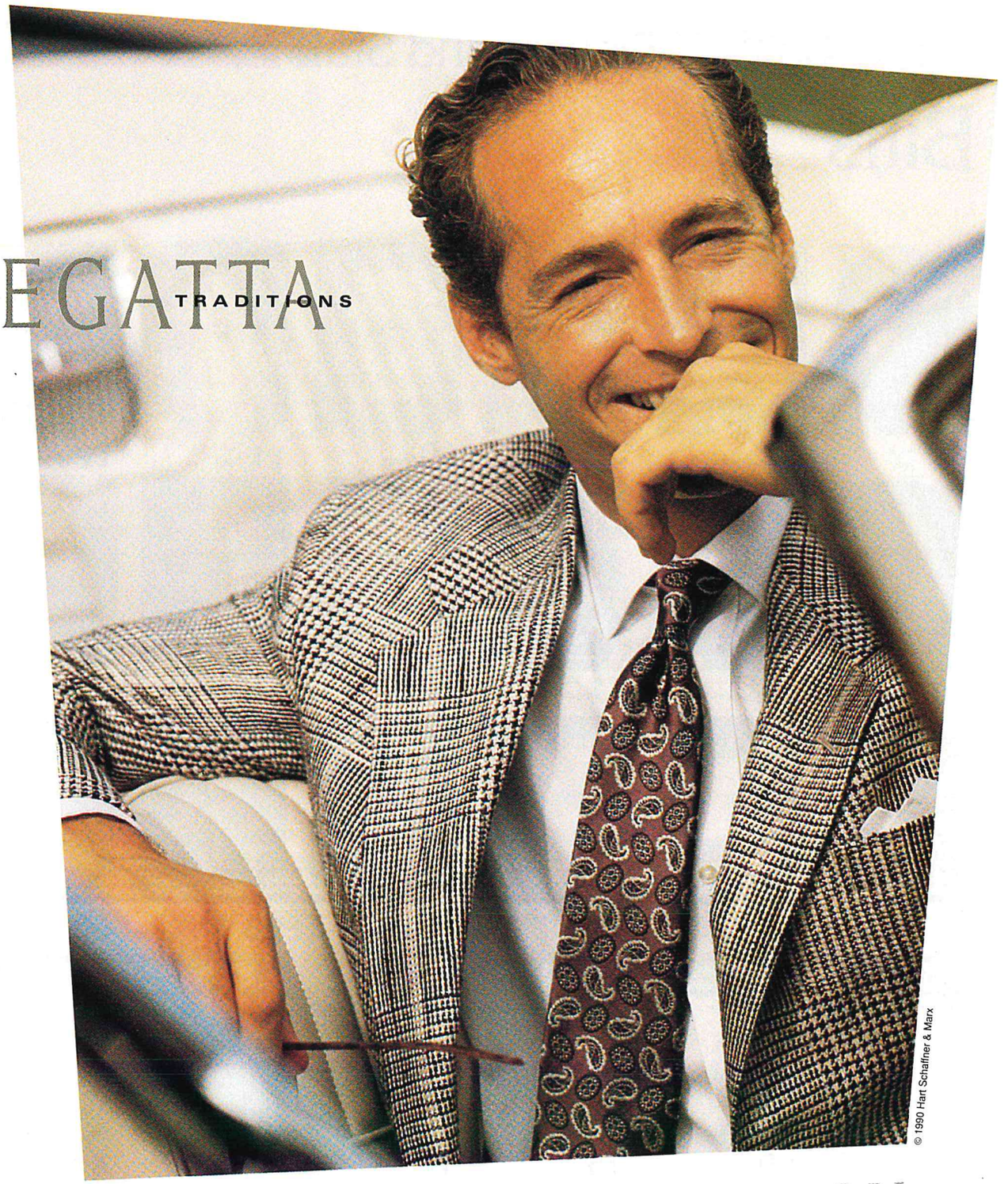
How They Were Built

49ERS

Year	Draft (29)	Trade (1)	Free Agents (17)
1979 2-14 4th, NFC West	QB Joe Montana (3)		
1980 6-10 3rd, NFC West	LB Keena Turner (2)		
1981 16-3 Super Bowl XVI Champions	S Ronnie Lott (1)		WR Mike Wilson
1982 3-6 11th, NFC Regular Season	T Bubba Paris (2)		
1983 11-7 1st, NFC West	RB Roger Craig (2) C-G Jesse Sapolu (11)		
1984 18-1 Super Bowl XIX Champions	G Guy McIntyre (3) NT Michael Carter (5A)		
1985 10-7 2nd, NFC West	WR Jerry Rice (1)		
1986 10-6-1 1st, NFC West	DE Larry Roberts (2) RB Tom Rathman (3A) WR John Taylor (3C) LB Charles Haley (4A) T Steve Wallace (4B) DE Kevin Fagan (4C) CB Don Griffin (6)		DE Pete Kugler
1987 13-3 1st, NFC West	T Harris Barton (1A)	QB Steve Young (from Tampa Bay)	TE Brent Jones RB Harry Sydney C-G Chuck Thomas
1988 13-6 Super Bowl XXIII Champions	DE Pierce Holt (2B) LB Bill Romanowski (3) P Barry Helton (4)		K Mike Cofer CB Darryl Pollard
1989 16-2 Super Bowl XXIV Champions	LB Keith DeLong (1) TE Wesley Walls (2) RB Keith Henderson (3) S Johnny Jackson (5)		QB Steve Bono NT Jim Burt LB Matt Millen WR Mike Sherrard G-T Ricky Siglar RB Spencer Tillman TE Jamie Williams
1990 15-2 1st, NFC West	RB Dexter Carter (1) DE Dennis Brown (2A) CB Eric Davis (2B) WR Ron Lewis (3A) T-G Frank Pollack (6)		LB LeRoy Etienne CB Kevin Lewis S Dave Waymer

GIANTS

Year	Draft (30)	Trade (2)	Free Agents (15)
1981 10-8 3rd, NFC East	LB Lawrence Taylor (1)		
1982 4-5 10th, NFC Regular Season			
1983 3-12-1 5th, NFC East	DE Leonard Marshall (2) CB Perry Williams (7)		
1984 10-8 2nd, NFC East	LB Carl Banks (1A) T William Roberts (1B) QB Jeff Hostetler (3) LB Gary Reasons (4B)		
1985 11-7 2nd, NFC East	WR Stacy Robinson (2) TE Mark Bavaro (4) RB Lee Rouson (8)		RB Maurice Carthon P Sean Landeta C Bart Oates
1986 17-2 Super Bowl XXI Champions	DE Eric Dorsey (1) CB Mark Collins (2A) NT Erik Howard (2B) LB Pepper Johnson (2C) DE John Washington (3)	RB Ottis Anderson (from St. Louis)	
1987 6-9 5th, NFC East	WR Mark Ingram (1) WR Stephen Baker (3) T Doug Riesenberg (6)		
1988 10-6 2nd, NFC East	G Eric Moore (1) G John Elliott (2)		LB Johnie Cooks
1989 12-5 1st, NFC East	C-G Brian Williams (1) G Bob Kratch (3A) S Greg Jackson (3B) RB Lewis Tillman (4) RB David Meggett (5) TE Howard Cross (6) S Myron Guyton (8)	LB Steve DeOssie (from Dallas)	CB Reyna Thompson
1990 14-3 1st, NFC East	RB Rodney Hampton (1) DE Mike Fox (2) S David Whitmore (4)		LB Bobby Abrams K Matt Bahr CB Roger Brown QB Matt Cavanaugh S Dave Duerson WR Troy Kyles LB Lawrence McGrew TE Bob Mrosko G-T Tom Rehder CB Everson Walls



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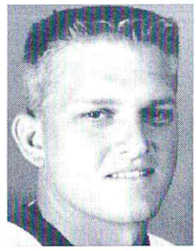
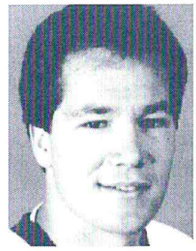
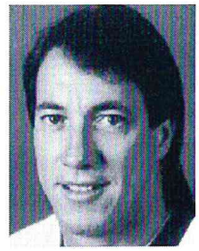


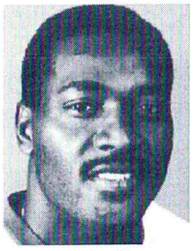
10 Rick Tuten
Punter



11 Scott Norwood
Kicker

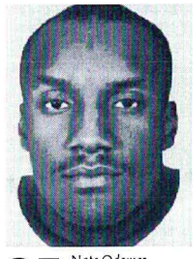


12 Jim Kelly
Quarterback



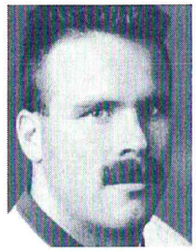
30 Don Smith
Running Back

34 Thurman Thomas
Running Back

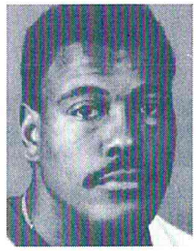


37 Nate Odomes
Cornerback

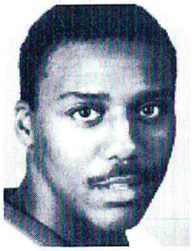
38 Mark Kelso
Safety



41 Jamie Mueller
Running Back

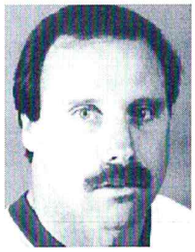


46 Leonard Smith
Safety



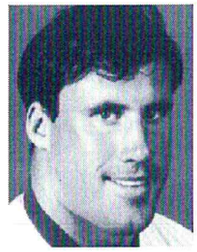
47 Kirby Jackson
Cornerback

50 Ray Bentley
Linebacker



51 Jim Ritcher
Guard

56 Darryl Talley
Linebacker



58 Shane Conlan
Linebacker

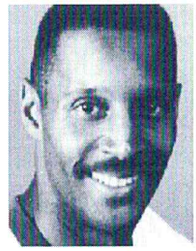
65 John Davis
Guard-Tackle

67 Kent Hull
Center

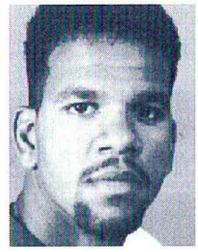
69 Will Wolford
Tackle

75 Howard Ballard
Tackle

78 Bruce Smith
Defensive End

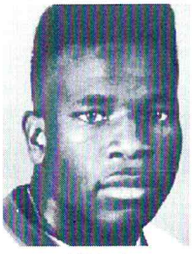


80 James Lofton
Wide Receiver

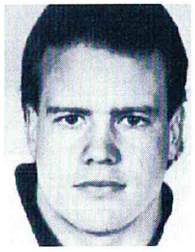


83 Andre Reed
Wide Receiver

84 Keith McKeller
Tight End

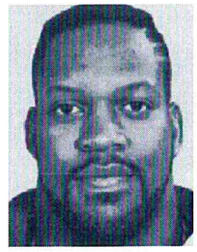


85 Al Edwards
Wide Receiver



89 Steve Tasker
Wide Receiver

91 Jeff Wright
Nose Tackle



96 Leon Seals
Defensive End

97 Cornelius Bennett
Linebacker

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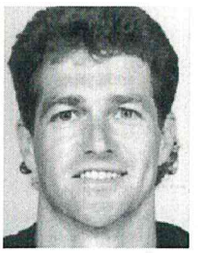
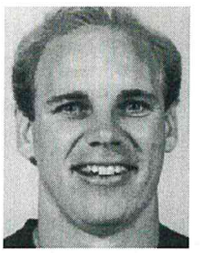
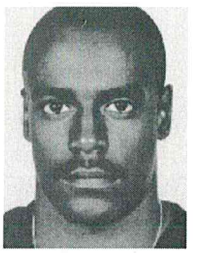


6 Jeff Gossett
Punter

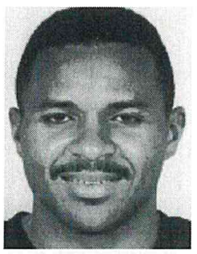


13 Jay Schroeder
Quarterback

18 Jeff Jaeger
Kicker



21 Garry Lewis
Cornerback

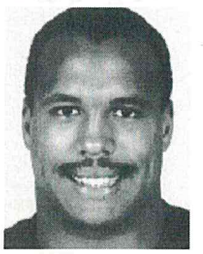


24 Ron Brown
Cornerback

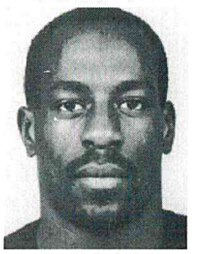
32 Marcus Allen
Running Back

33 Eddie Anderson
Safety

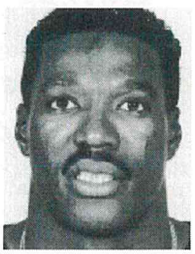
34 Bo Jackson
Running Back



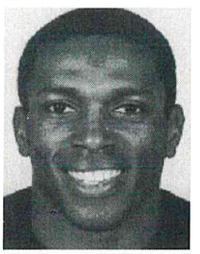
35 Steve Smith
Running Back



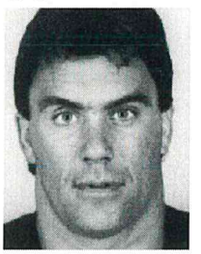
36 Terry McDaniel
Cornerback



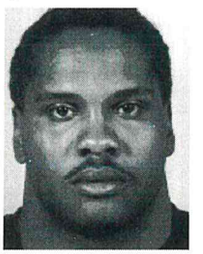
45 Mike Harden
Safety



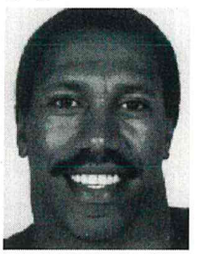
48 Lionel Washington
Cornerback



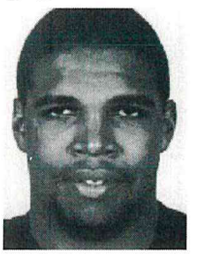
50 Riki Ellison
Linebacker



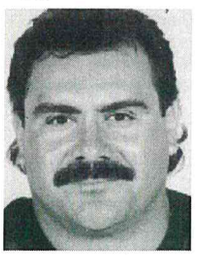
54 Tom Benson
Linebacker



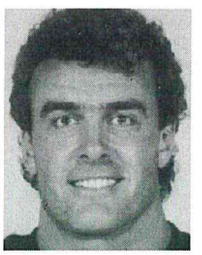
57 Jerry Robinson
Linebacker



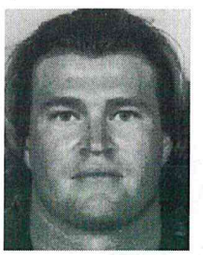
60 Rory Graves
Tackle



65 Max Montoya
Guard



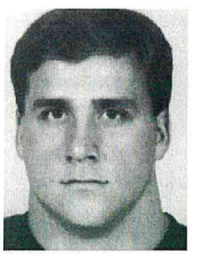
66 Steve Wright
Tackle



70 Scott Davis
Defensive End

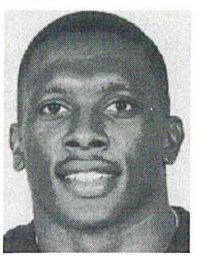
72 Don Mosebar
Center

75 Howie Long
Defensive End

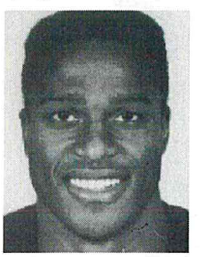


76 Steve Wisniewski
Guard

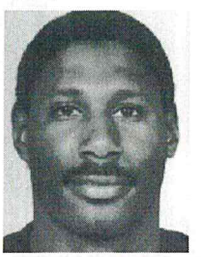
79 Bob Golic
Defensive Tackle



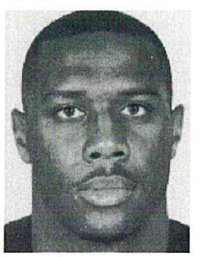
81 Tim Brown
Wide Receiver



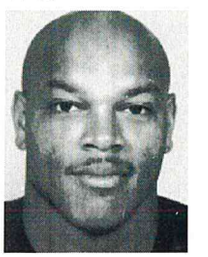
83 Willie Gault
Wide Receiver



86 Mervyn Fernandez
Wide Receiver



88 Ethan Horton
Tight End



93 Greg Townsend
Defensive End

Believe it or not, it can take an athlete all the way to Barcelona.

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Many of America's top amateur rowers spend countless hours training on ergometers like this one. They're working to improve their strength, their stamina and their chances of getting to the '92 Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain.

We're Champion International Corporation, a leading manufacturer of paper and wood products. We're also a proud sponsor of the U.S. Rowing and the U.S. Canoe/Kayak teams and training centers.

Through our sponsorship, we're helping to provide equipment, coaching and support to America's rowers, canoers and kayakers. Because at Champion, we want to help give America's amateur athletes the chance to be the best they can be—at Barcelona, and beyond.

Champion

Champion International Corporation

Official Sponsor USRowing U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team

BUFFALO BILLS

Alphabetical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
54	Bailey, Carlton	LB	6-3	235	12/15/64	3	North Carolina
92	Baldinger, Gary	NT	6-3	270	10/4/63	4	Wake Forest
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	325	11/3/63	3	Alabama A&M
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	238	8/25/66	4	Alabama
50	Bentley, Ray	LB	6-2	235	11/25/60	5	Central Michigan
58	Conlan, Shane	LB	6-3	230	4/3/64	4	Penn State
65	Davis, John	G-T	6-4	310	8/22/65	4	Georgia Tech
23	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	209	4/10/62	5	TCU
45	Drane, Dwight	S	6-2	205	5/8/62	5	Oklahoma
85	Edwards, Al	WR	5-8	168	5/18/67	R	NW Louisiana State
59	Frerotte, Mitch	G	6-3	285	3/30/65	2	Penn State
35	Gardner, Carwell	RB	6-2	235	11/27/66	R	Louisville
99	Garner, Hal	LB	6-4	238	1/18/62	3	Utah State
7	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	210	12/20/61	4	California
22	Hagy, John	S	6-0	185	12/9/65	3	Texas
27	Hicks, Clifford	CB	5-10	188	8/18/64	4	Oregon
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	275	1/13/61	5	Mississippi State
47	Jackson, Kirby	CB	5-10	180	2/2/65	4	Mississippi State
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	218	2/14/60	5	Miami
38	Kelso, Mark	S	5-11	185	7/23/63	5	William & Mary
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	263	11/2/60	8	Illinois
73	Lodish, Mike	DT	6-3	270	8/11/67	R	UCLA
80	Lofton, James	WR	6-3	190	7/5/56	13	Stanford
84	McKeller, Keith	TE	6-4	245	7/9/64	3	Jacksonville State
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	250	5/24/60	9	Wabash
41	Mueller, Jamie	RB	6-1	224	10/4/64	4	Benedictine
11	Norwood, Scott	K	6-0	207	7/17/60	6	James Madison
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	8/25/65	4	Wisconsin
74	Parker, Glenn	T	6-5	304	4/22/66	R	Arizona
53	Patton, Marvcus	LB	6-2	223	5/1/67	R	UCLA
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	12/27/63	4	Georgia Tech
29	Pool, David	CB	5-9	188	12/20/66	R	Carson-Newman
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	1/29/64	6	Kutztown
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	210	12/4/61	6	Maryland
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	275	5/21/58	11	North Carolina State
87	Rolle, Butch	TE	6-3	245	8/19/64	5	Michigan State
96	Seals, Leon	DE	6-5	270	1/30/64	4	Jackson State
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	275	6/18/63	6	Virginia Tech
30	Smith, Don	RB	5-11	200	10/30/63	4	Mississippi State
46	Smith, Leonard	S	5-11	202	9/2/60	8	McNeese State
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	7/10/60	8	West Virginia
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	185	4/10/62	6	Northwestern
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	5/16/66	3	Oklahoma State
10	Tuten, Rick	P	6-2	218	1/5/65	1	Florida State
31	Williams, James	CB	5-10	175	3/30/67	R	Fresno State
69	Wolford, Will	T	6-5	295	5/18/64	5	Vanderbilt
91	Wright, Jeff	NT	6-3	270	6/13/63	3	Central Missouri St.

OFFENSE				
WR	**—80 James Lofton**	89 Steve Tasker		
LT	**—69 Will Wolford**	74 Glenn Parker		
LG	**—51 Jim Ritcher**	59 Mitch Frerotte		
C	**—67 Kent Hull**	59 Mitch Frerotte	63 Adam Lingner	
RG	**—65 John Davis**	74 Glenn Parker		
RT	**—75 Howard Ballard**	65 John Davis		
TE	**—84 Keith McKeller**	88 Pete Metzelaars	87 Butch Rolle	
WR	**—83 Andre Reed**	85 Al Edwards		
QB	**—12 Jim Kelly**	14 Frank Reich	7 Gale Gilbert	
RB	**—34 Thurman Thomas**	23 Kenneth Davis	30 Don Smith	
RB	**—41 Jamie Mueller**	35 Carwell Gardner		
DEFENSE				
LE	**—96 Leon Seals**	94 Mark Pike		
NT	**—91 Jeff Wright**	92 Gary Baldinger		
RE	**—78 Bruce Smith**	73 Mike Lodish		
LOLB	**—97 Cornelius Bennett**	99 Hal Garner		
LILB	**—58 Shane Conlan**	54 Carlton Bailey		
RILB	**—50 Ray Bentley**	54 Carlton Bailey		
ROLB	**—56 Darryl Talley**	99 Hal Garner		
LCB	**—47 Kirby Jackson**	31 James Williams	27 Clifford Hicks	
RCB	**—37 Nate Odomes**	29 David Pool	27 Clifford Hicks	
SS	**—38 Mark Kelso**	22 John Hagy		
FS	**—46 Leonard Smith**	45 Dwight Drane		
SPECIALISTS				
P	**—10 Rick Tuten**			
K	**—11 Scott Norwood**			
H	**—14 Frank Reich**	89 Steve Tasker		
PC	**—63 Adam Lingner**	67 Kent Hull		
KC	**—63 Adam Lingner**	67 Kent Hull		
PR	**—85 Al Edwards**			
KR	**—30 Don Smith**	85 Al Edwards		

Bold Face —Starters

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Alphabetical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	210	3/26/60	9	USC
33	Anderson, Eddie	S	6-1	205	7/22/63	5	Fort Valley State
54	Benson, Tom	LB	6-2	240	9/6/61	7	Oklahoma
7	Beuerlein, Steve	QB	6-2	210	3/7/65	3	Notre Dame
24	Brown, Ron	CB	5-11	190	3/3/61	7	Arizona State
81	Brown, Tim	WR	6-0	195	7/22/66	3	Notre Dame
70	Davis, Scott	DE	6-7	270	8/7/65	3	Illinois
46	Dorn, Torin	CB	6-0	190	2/28/68	R	North Carolina
84	Dyal, Mike	TE	6-2	240	5/20/66	2	Texas A & I
50	Ellison, Riki	LB	6-2	230	8/15/60	7	USC
11	Evans, Vince	QB	6-2	210	6/14/55	11	USC
86	Fernandez, Mervyn	WR	6-3	200	12/29/59	4	San Jose State
73	FitzPatrick, James	T	6-7	330	2/1/64	5	USC
83	Gault, Willie	WR	6-1	175	9/5/60	8	Tennessee
79	Golic, Bob	DT	6-2	275	10/26/57	11	Notre Dame
55	Gordon, Alex	LB	6-5	245	9/14/64	4	Cincinnati
6	Gossett, Jeff	P	6-2	195	1/25/57	9	Eastern Illinois
85	Graddy, Sam	WR	5-10	175	7/10/64	3	Tennessee
60	Graves, Rory	T	6-6	290	7/21/63	3	Ohio State
45	Harden, Mike	S	6-1	200	2/16/59	11	Michigan
82	Holland, Jamie	WR	6-1	195	2/1/64	4	Ohio State
88	Horton, Ethan	TE	6-4	240	12/19/62	4	North Carolina
34	Jackson, Bo	RB	6-1	235	10/30/62	4	Auburn
18	Jaeger, Jeff	K	5-11	195	11/26/64	3	Washington
53	Jordan, Darin	LB	6-1	240	12/4/64	2	Northeastern
25	Land, Dan	S	6-0	195	7/3/65	2	Albany State
21	Lewis, Garry	CB	5-11	185	8/25/67	R	Alcorn State
75	Long, Howie	DE	6-5	270	1/6/60	10	Villanova
41	McCallum, Napoleon	RB	6-2	220	10/6/63	2	Navy
36	McDaniel, Terry	CB	5-10	180	2/8/65	2	Tennessee
65	Montoya, Max	G	6-5	290	5/12/56	12	UCLA
72	Mosebar, Don	C	6-6	280	9/11/61	8	USC
42	Mueller, Vance	RB	6-0	220	5/5/64	5	Occidental
43	Patterson, Elvis	S	5-11	195	10/21/60	7	Kansas
64	Peat, Todd	G	6-2	315	5/20/64	3	Northern Illinois
71	Pickel, Bill	DT	6-5	260	11/5/59	8	Rutgers
57	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	230	12/18/56	12	UCLA
13	Schroeder, Jay	QB	6-4	215	6/28/61	7	UCLA
35	Smith, Steve	RB	6-1	240	8/30/64	4	Penn State
93	Townsend, Greg	DE	6-3	270	11/3/61	8	TCU
67	Turk, Dan	C	6-4	280	6/25/62	5	Wisconsin
51	Wallace, Aaron	LB	6-3	230	4/17/67	R	Texas A&M
48	Washington, Lionel	CB	6-0	190	10/21/60	8	Tulane
68	Wilkerson, Bruce	T	6-5	295	7/28/64	4	Tennessee
90	Wise, Mike	DE	6-7	270	6/5/64	4	Cal-Davis
76	Wisniewski, Steve	G	6-4	280	4/7/67	2	Penn State
66	Wright, Steve	T	6-6	280	4/8/59	8	Northern Iowa

OFFENSE				
WR	**—83 Willie Gault**	85 Sam Graddy	82 Jamie Holland	
LT	**—60 Rory Graves**	68 Bruce Wilkerson	73 James FitzPatrick	
LG	**—76 Steve Wisniewski**	64 Todd Peat		
C	**—72 Don Mosebar**	67 Dan Turk		
RG	**—65 Max Montoya**	64 Todd Peat		
RT	**—66 Steve Wright**	68 Bruce Wilkerson	73 James FitzPatrick	
TE	**—88 Ethan Horton**	84 Mike Dyal		
WR	**—86 Mervyn Fernandez**	81 Tim Brown		
QB	**—13 Jay Schroeder**	11 Vince Evans	7 Steve Beuerlein	
RB	**—35 Steve Smith**	41 Napoleon McCallum		
RB	**—32 Marcus Allen**	34 Bo Jackson	42 Vance Mueller	
DEFENSE				
LE	**—75 Howie Long**	90 Mike Wise		
LT	**—79 Bob Golic**	71 Bill Pickel		
RT	**—70 Scott Davis**	71 Bill Pickel		
RE	**—93 Greg Townsend**	71 Bill Pickel		
LLB	**—57 Jerry Robinson**	51 Aaron Wallace		
MLB	**—50 Riki Ellison**	53 Darin Jordan		
RLB	**—54 Thomas Benson**	55 Alex Gordon		
LCB	**—36 Terry McDaniel**	21 Garry Lewis	46 Torin Dorn	
RCB	**—48 Lionel Washington**	46 Torin Dorn	24 Ron Brown	
SS	**—45 Mike Harden**	43 Elvis Patterson		
FS	**—33 Eddie Anderson**	25 Dan Land		
SPECIALISTS				
P	**— 6 Jeff Gossett**	86 Mervyn Fernandez	13 Jay Schroeder	
K	**—18 Jeff Jaeger**	6 Jeff Gossett		
H	**— 6 Jeff Gossett**	13 Jay Schroeder		
PC	**—67 Dan Turk**	65 Max Montoya	71 Bill Pickel	
KC	**—67 Dan Turk**	72 Don Mosebar	65 Max Montoya	
PR	**—81 Tim Brown**	41 Napoleon McCallum	86 Mervyn Fernandez	
KR	**—24 Ron Brown**	82 Jamie Holland	42 Vance Mueller	

Bold Face—Starters

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At last, new and improved really mean something.

Considering all the times you've seen the words "new and improved" used to introduce products, it's no wonder you're skeptical. But the all-new 1991 Ninety Eight™ is an automobile we truly believe delivers on these words in a very big way.

Inside and out, the Ninety Eight has totally changed. In fact, it redefines the contemporary luxury car.

The Ninety Eight is larger now, bringing you more of what you want from a luxury car. More back seat legroom and over 20 cubic feet of trunk space.

Ninety Eight also features a more responsive 3800 V6 with tuned port injection, and standard anti-lock brakes. You'll be amazed by the newly available Computer Command Ride System. An innovation that automatically adjusts the ride to match changing road conditions. And the air bag on the driver's side is now standard, too.

And nowhere else will you find the *Oldsmobile Edge,* the exclusive comprehensive owner satisfaction program that can't be touched by any other luxury automobile you can buy, regardless of cost.

To find out more about the all-new Ninety Eight, just stop by your local Oldsmobile® dealer. Or call 1-800-242-OLDS, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST.

In highway mileage, we do a number on the competition.

	NINETY EIGHT	LINCOLN TOWN CAR	MAZDA 929
EPA Estimated MPG Highway	27	23	23
Highway Range (miles)	486	414	426

Highway range estimates are obtained by multiplying EPA highway estimates by the fuel tank capacity in gallons.

Ninety Eight

The New Generation of Oldsmobile™

AFC

Starting Lineups

BUFFALO BILLS

OFFENSE

80	James Lofton	WR
69	Will Wolford	LT
51	Jim Ritcher	LG
67	Kent Hull	C
65	John Davis	RG
75	Howard Ballard	RT
84	Keith McKeller	TE
83	Andre Reed	WR
12	Jim Kelly	QB
34	Thurman Thomas	RB
41	Jamie Mueller	RB

DEFENSE

96	Leon Seals	LE
91	Jeff Wright	NT
78	Bruce Smith	RE
97	Cornelius Bennett	LOLB
58	Shane Conlan	LILB
50	Ray Bentley	RILB
56	Darryl Talley	ROLB
47	Kirby Jackson	LCB
37	Nate Odomes	RCB
46	Leonard Smith	SS
38	Mark Kelso	FS

Numerical Roster

7	Gale Gilbert	QB
10	Rick Tuten	P
11	Scott Norwood	K
12	Jim Kelly	QB
14	Frank Reich	QB
22	John Hagy	S
23	Kenneth Davis	RB
27	Clifford Hicks	CB
29	David Pool	CB
30	Don Smith	RB
31	James Williams	CB
34	Thurman Thomas	RB
35	Carwell Gardner	RB
37	Nate Odomes	CB
38	Mark Kelso	S
41	Jamie Mueller	RB
45	Dwight Drane	S
46	Leonard Smith	S
47	Kirby Jackson	CB
50	Ray Bentley	LB
51	Jim Ritcher	G
53	Marvcus Patton	LB
54	Carlton Bailey	LB
56	Darryl Talley	LB
58	Shane Conlan	LB
59	Mitch Frerotte	G
63	Adam Lingner	C
65	John Davis	G-T
67	Kent Hull	C
69	Will Wolford	T
73	Mike Lodish	DT
74	Glenn Parker	T
75	Howard Ballard	T
78	Bruce Smith	DE
80	James Lofton	WR
83	Andre Reed	WR
84	Keith McKeller	TE
85	Al Edwards	WR
87	Butch Rolle	TE
88	Pete Metzelaars	TE
89	Steve Tasker	WR-KR
91	Jeff Wright	NT
92	Gary Baldinger	NT
94	Mark Pike	DE
96	Leon Seals	DE
97	Cornelius Bennett	LB
99	Hal Garner	LB

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

OFFENSE

83	Willie Gault	WR
60	Rory Graves	LT
76	Steve Wisniewski	LG
72	Don Mosebar	C
65	Max Montoya	RG
66	Steve Wright	RT
88	Ethan Horton	TE
86	Mervyn Fernandez	WR
13	Jay Schroeder	QB
35	Steve Smith	RB
32	Marcus Allen	RB

DEFENSE

75	Howie Long	LE
79	Bob Golic	LT
70	Scott Davis	RT
93	Greg Townsend	RE
57	Jerry Robinson	LLB
50	Riki Ellison	MLB
54	Tom Benson	RLB
36	Terry McDaniel	LCB
48	Lionel Washington	RCB
45	Mike Harden	SS
33	Eddie Anderson	FS

Numerical Roster

6	Jeff Gossett	P
7	Steve Beuerlein	QB
11	Vince Evans	QB
13	Jay Schroeder	QB
18	Jeff Jaeger	K
21	Garry Lewis	CB
24	Ron Brown	CB
25	Dan Land	S
32	Marcus Allen	RB
33	Eddie Anderson	S
34	Bo Jackson	RB
35	Steve Smith	RB
36	Terry McDaniel	CB
41	Napoleon McCallum	RB
42	Vance Mueller	RB
43	Elvis Patterson	S
45	Mike Harden	S
46	Torin Dorn	CB
48	Lionel Washington	CB
50	Riki Ellison	LB
51	Aaron Wallace	LB
53	Darin Jordan	LB
54	Tom Benson	LB
55	Alex Gordon	LB
57	Jerry Robinson	LB
60	Rory Graves	T
64	Todd Peat	G
65	Max Montoya	G
66	Steve Wright	T
67	Dan Turk	C
68	Bruce Wilkerson	T
70	Scott Davis	DE
71	Bill Pickel	DT
72	Don Mosebar	C
73	James FitzPatrick	T
75	Howie Long	DE
76	Steve Wisniewski	G
79	Bob Golic	DT
81	Tim Brown	WR
82	Jamie Holland	WR
83	Willie Gault	WR
84	Mike Dyal	TE
85	Sam Graddy	WR
86	Mervyn Fernandez	WR
88	Ethan Horton	TE
90	Mike Wise	DE
93	Greg Townsend	DE

Thirst A

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NFL

NutraSweet BRAND SWEETENER

NFC

Starting Lineups

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

OFFENSE

82	John Taylor	WR
77	Bubba Paris	LT
62	Guy McIntyre	LG
61	Jesse Sapolu	C
79	Harris Barton	RG
74	Steve Wallace	RT
84	Brent Jones	TE
80	Jerry Rice	WR
16	Joe Montana	QB
33	Roger Craig	RB
44	Tom Rathman	RB

DEFENSE

78	Pierce Holt	LE
95	Michael Carter	NT
75	Kevin Fagan	RE
94	Charles Haley	LOLB
54	Matt Millen	LILB
59	Keith DeLong	RILB
53	Bill Romanowski	ROLB
26	Darryl Pollard	LCB
29	Don Griffin	RCB
43	Dave Waymer	SS
42	Ronnie Lott	FS

Numerical Roster

6	Mike Cofer	K
8	Steve Young	QB
9	Barry Helton	P
13	Steve Bono	QB
16	Joe Montana	QB
23	Spencer Tillman	RB
24	Harry Sydney	RB
25	Eric Davis	CB
26	Darryl Pollard	CB
29	Don Griffin	CB
30	Keith Henderson	RB
33	Roger Craig	RB
35	Dexter Carter	RB
40	Johnny Jackson	S
42	Ronnie Lott	S
43	Dave Waymer	S
44	Tom Rathman	RB
45	Kevin Lewis	CB
50	LeRoy Etienne	LB
53	Bill Romanowski	LB
54	Matt Millen	LB
58	Keena Turner	LB
59	Keith DeLong	LB
60	Chuck Thomas	C-G
61	Jesse Sapolu	C-G
62	Guy McIntyre	G
63	Ricky Siglar	G-T
64	Jim Burt	NT
67	Pete Kugler	NT-DE
72	Frank Pollack	T-G
74	Steve Wallace	T
75	Kevin Fagan	DE
77	Bubba Paris	T
78	Pierce Holt	DE
79	Harris Barton	T
80	Jerry Rice	WR
81	Jamie Williams	TE
82	John Taylor	WR
83	Ron Lewis	WR
84	Brent Jones	TE
85	Mike Wilson	WR
88	Mike Sherrard	WR
89	Wesley Walls	TE
91	Larry Roberts	DE
94	Charles Haley	LB-DE
95	Michael Carter	NT
96	Dennis Brown	DE

NEW YORK GIANTS

OFFENSE

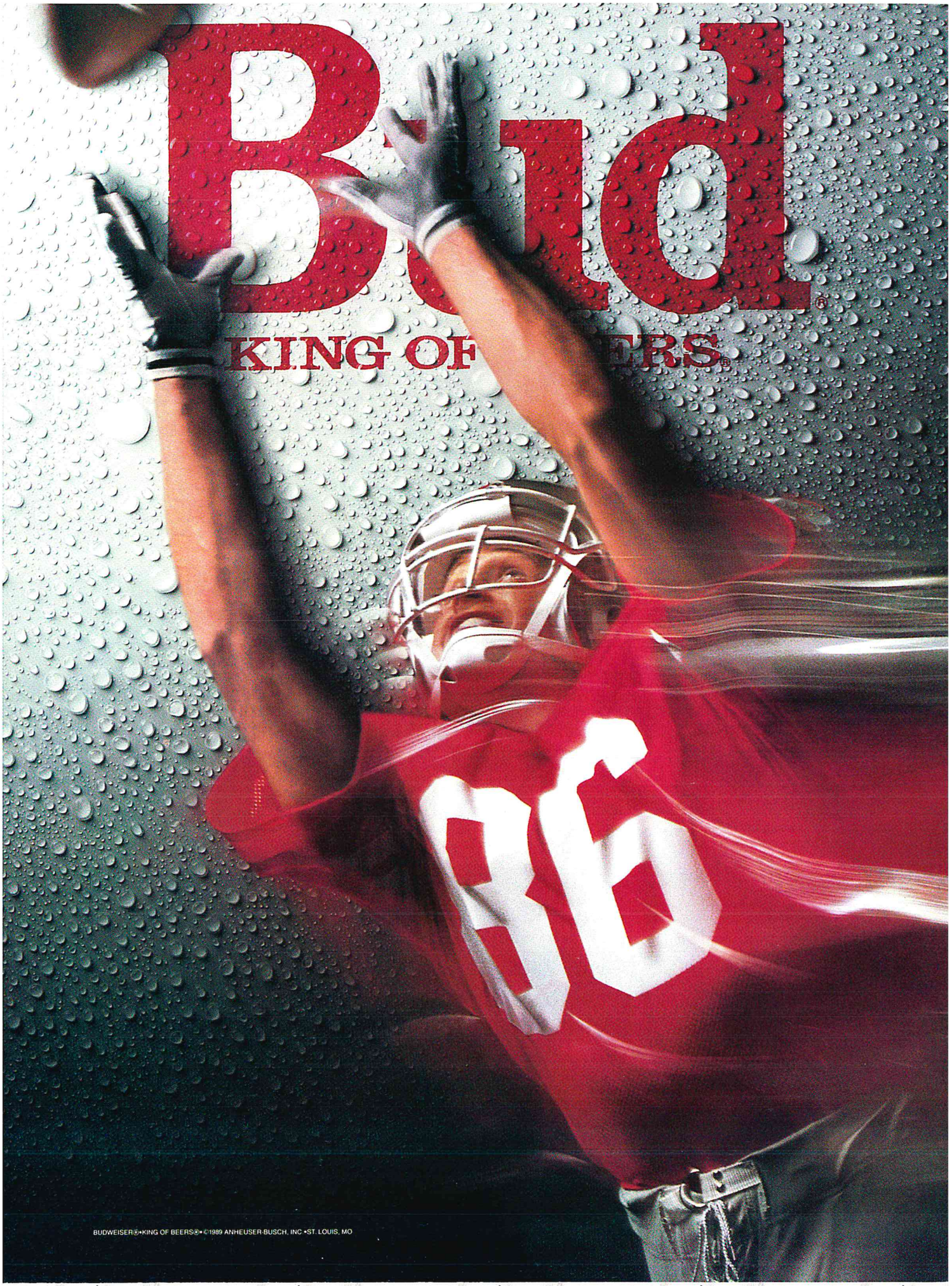
82	Mark Ingram	WR
76	John Elliott	LT
66	William Roberts	LG
65	Bart Oates	C
60	Eric Moore	RG
72	Doug Riesenberg	RT
89	Mark Bavaro	TE
85	Stephen Baker	WR
15	Jeff Hostetler	QB
24	Ottis Anderson	RB
44	Maurice Carthon	RB

DEFENSE

77	Eric Dorsey	LE
74	Erik Howard	NT
70	Leonard Marshall	RE
58	Carl Banks	LOLB
99	Steve DeOssie	LILB
52	Pepper Johnson	RILB
56	Lawrence Taylor	ROLB
25	Mark Collins	LCB
28	Everson Walls	RCB
47	Greg Jackson	SS
29	Myron Guyton	FS

Numerical Roster

5	Sean Landeta	P
6	Matt Cavanaugh	QB
9	Matt Bahr	K
15	Jeff Hostetler	QB
21	Reyna Thompson	CB
22	Lee Rouson	RB
23	Perry Williams	CB
24	Ottis Anderson	RB
25	Mark Collins	CB
26	Dave Duerson	S
27	Rodney Hampton	RB
28	Everson Walls	CB
29	Myron Guyton	S
30	David Meggett	RB
34	Lewis Tillman	RB
43	David Whitmore	S
44	Maurice Carthon	RB
46	Roger Brown	CB
47	Greg Jackson	S
51	Bobby Abrams	LB
52	Pepper Johnson	LB
55	Gary Reasons	LB
56	Lawrence Taylor	LB
57	Lawrence McGrew	LB
58	Carl Banks	LB
59	Brian Williams	C-G
60	Eric Moore	G
61	Bob Kratch	G
64	Tom Rehder	G-T
65	Bart Oates	C
66	William Roberts	G
70	Leonard Marshall	DE
72	Doug Riesenberg	T
73	John Washington	DE
74	Erik Howard	NT
76	John Elliott	T
77	Eric Dorsey	DE
80	Robert Mrosko	TE
81	Stacy Robinson	WR
82	Mark Ingram	WR
84	Troy Kyles	WR
85	Stephen Baker	WR
87	Howard Cross	TE
89	Mark Bavaro	TE
93	Mike Fox	DE
98	Johnie Cooks	LB
99	Steve DeOssie	LB


Bud
KING OF
ERS
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SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Alphabetical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	280	4/19/64	4	North Carolina
13	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	215	5/11/62	6	UCLA
96	Brown, Dennis	DE	6-4	290	11/6/67	R	Washington
64	Burt, Jim	NT	6-1	270	6/7/59	10	Miami
35	Carter, Dexter	RB	5-9	170	9/15/67	R	Florida State
95	Carter, Michael	NT	6-2	285	10/29/60	7	SMU
6	Cofer, Mike	K	6-1	190	2/19/64	3	North Carolina State
33	Craig, Roger	RB	6-0	224	7/10/60	8	Nebraska
25	Davis, Eric	CB	5-11	178	1/26/68	R	Jacksonville State
59	DeLong, Keith	LB	6-2	235	8/14/67	2	Tennessee
50	Etienne, LeRoy	LB	6-2	245	7/25/66	1	Nebraska
75	Fagan, Kevin	DE	6-3	260	4/25/63	4	Miami
29	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	176	3/17/64	5	Middle Tenn. St.
94	Haley, Charles	LB-DE	6-5	230	1/6/64	5	James Madison
9	Helton, Barry	P	6-3	205	1/2/65	3	Colorado
30	Henderson, Keith	RB	6-1	220	8/4/66	2	Georgia
78	Holt, Pierce	DE	6-4	280	1/1/62	3	Angelo State
40	Jackson, Johnny	S	6-1	204	1/11/67	2	Houston
84	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	2/12/63	4	Santa Clara
67	Kugler, Pete	NT-DE	6-4	255	3/9/59	8	Penn State
45	Lewis, Kevin	CB	5-11	173	11/14/66	1	N.W. Louisiana
83	Lewis, Ron	WR	5-11	173	3/25/68	R	Florida State
42	Lott, Ronnie	S	6-0	200	5/8/59	10	USC
62	McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	265	2/17/61	7	Georgia
54	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	245	3/12/58	11	Penn State
16	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	195	6/11/56	12	Notre Dame
77	Paris, Bubba	T	6-6	299	10/6/60	8	Michigan
72	Pollack, Frank	T-G	6-4	277	11/5/67	R	Northern Arizona
26	Pollard, Darryl	CB	5-11	187	5/11/64	4	Weber State
44	Rathman, Tom	RB	6-1	232	10/7/62	5	Nebraska
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	10/13/62	6	Miss. Valley State
91	Roberts, Larry	DE	6-3	275	6/2/63	5	Alabama
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	231	4/2/66	3	Boston College
61	Sapolu, Jesse	C-G	6-4	260	3/10/61	5	Hawaii
88	Sherrard, Mike	WR	6-2	187	6/21/63	2	UCLA
63	Siglar, Ricky	G-T	6-7	296	6/14/66	1	San Jose State
24	Sydney, Harry	RB	6-0	217	6/26/59	4	Kansas
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	3/31/62	4	Delaware State
60	Thomas, Chuck	C-G	6-3	280	12/24/60	5	Oklahoma
23	Tillman, Spencer	RB	5-11	206	4/21/64	4	Oklahoma
58	Turner, Keena	LB	6-2	222	10/22/58	11	Purdue
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	276	12/27/64	5	Auburn
89	Walls, Wesley	TE	6-5	246	2/26/66	2	Mississippi
43	Waymer, Dave	S	6-1	188	7/1/58	11	Notre Dame
81	Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	2/25/60	8	Nebraska
85	Wilson, Mike	WR	6-3	215	12/19/58	10	Washington State
8	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	200	10/11/61	6	BYU

OFFENSE				
WR	**—82 John Taylor**	85 Mike Wilson	88 Mike Sherrard	
LT	**—77 Bubba Paris**	72 Frank Pollack		
LG	**—62 Guy McIntyre**	63 Ricky Siglar		
C	**—61 Jesse Sapolu**	60 Chuck Thomas		
RG	**—79 Harris Barton**	63 Ricky Siglar		
RT	**—74 Steve Wallace**	72 Frank Pollack		
TE	**—84 Brent Jones**	81 Jamie Williams	89 Wesley Walls	
WR	**—80 Jerry Rice**	83 Ron Lewis		
QB	**—16 Joe Montana**	8 Steve Young	13 Steve Bono	
RB	**—33 Roger Craig**	35 Dexter Carter	23 Spencer Tillman	
RB	**—44 Tom Rathman**	24 Harry Sydney	30 Keith Henderson	
DEFENSE				
LE	**—78 Pierce Holt**	96 Dennis Brown		
NT	**—95 Michael Carter**	64 Jim Burt	67 Pete Kugler	
RE	**—75 Kevin Fagan**	91 Larry Roberts		
LOLB	**—94 Charles Haley**	58 Keena Turner		
LILB	**—54 Matt Millen**	59 Keith DeLong		
RILB	**—59 Keith DeLong**	50 LeRoy Etienne		
ROLB	**—53 Bill Romanowski**	58 Keena Turner		
LCB	**—26 Darryl Pollard**	25 Eric Davis		
RCB	**—29 Don Griffin**	45 Kevin Lewis		
SS	**—43 Dave Waymer**	40 Johnny Jackson		
FS	**—42 Ronnie Lott**	40 Johnny Jackson		
SPECIALISTS				
P	**— 9 Barry Helton**	6 Mike Cofer		
K	**— 6 Mike Cofer**	84 Brent Jones		
H	**— 9 Barry Helton**	13 Steve Bono	8 Steve Young	
PC	**—89 Wesley Walls**	60 Chuck Thomas	72 Frank Pollack	
KC	**—60 Chuck Thomas**	61 Jesse Sapolu	72 Frank Pollack	
PR	**—82 John Taylor**	29 Don Griffin	25 Eric Davis	
KR	**—35 Dexter Carter**	23 Spencer Tillman	24 Harry Sydney	

Bold Face—Starters

NEW YORK GIANTS

Alphabetical Roster

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
51	Abrams, Bobby	LB	6-3	230	4/12/67	R	Michigan
24	Anderson, Ottis	RB	6-2	225	11/19/57	12	Miami
9	Bahr, Matt	K	5-10	175	7/6/56	13	Penn State
85	Baker, Stephen	WR	5-8	160	8/30/64	4	Fresno State
58	Banks, Carl	LB	6-4	235	8/29/62	7	Michigan State
89	Bavaro, Mark	TE	6-4	245	4/28/63	6	Notre Dame
46	Brown, Roger	CB	6-0	196	12/16/66	R	Virginia Tech
44	Carthon, Maurice	RB	6-1	225	4/24/61	6	Arkansas State
6	Cavanaugh, Matt	QB	6-2	210	10/27/56	13	Pittsburgh
98	Cooks, Johnie	LB	6-4	251	11/23/58	9	Mississippi State
25	Collins, Mark	CB	5-10	190	1/16/64	5	Cal St.-Fullerton
87	Cross, Howard	TE	6-5	245	8/8/67	2	Alabama
99	DeOssie, Steve	LB	6-2	248	11/22/62	7	Boston College
77	Dorsey, Eric	DE	6-5	280	8/5/64	5	Notre Dame
26	Duerson, Dave	S	6-1	208	11/28/60	8	Notre Dame
76	Elliott, John	T	6-7	305	4/1/65	3	Michigan
93	Fox, Mike	DE	6-6	275	8/5/67	R	West Virginia
29	Guyton, Myron	S	6-1	205	8/26/67	2	Eastern Kentucky
27	Hampton, Rodney	RB	5-11	215	4/3/69	R	Georgia
15	Hostetler, Jeff	QB	6-3	212	4/22/61	7	West Virginia
74	Howard, Erik	NT	6-4	268	11/12/64	5	Washington State
82	Ingram, Mark	WR	5-10	188	8/23/65	4	Michigan State
47	Jackson, Greg	S	6-1	200	8/20/66	2	LSU
52	Johnson, Pepper	LB	6-3	248	6/29/64	5	Ohio State
61	Kratch, Bob	G	6-3	288	1/6/66	2	Iowa
84	Kyles, Troy	WR	6-0	180	8/13/68	R	Howard
5	Landeta, Sean	P	6-0	200	1/6/62	6	Towson State
70	Marshall, Leonard	DE	6-3	285	10/22/61	8	LSU
57	McGrew, Lawrence	LB	6-6	250	7/23/57	10	USC
30	Meggett, David	RB	5-7	180	4/30/66	2	Towson State
60	Moore, Eric	G	6-5	290	1/21/65	3	Indiana
80	Mrosko, Bob	TE	6-5	270	11/13/65	3	Penn State
65	Oates, Bart	C	6-3	265	12/16/58	6	BYU
55	Reasons, Gary	LB	6-4	234	2/18/62	7	N.W. Louisiana State
64	Rehder, Tom	G-T	6-7	290	1/27/65	3	Notre Dame
72	Riesenberg, Doug	T	6-5	275	7/22/65	4	California
81	Robinson, Stacy	WR	5-11	186	2/19/62	6	North Dakota State
66	Roberts, William	G	6-5	280	8/5/62	6	Ohio State
22	Rouson, Lee	RB	6-1	222	10/18/62	6	Colorado
56	Taylor, Lawrence	LB	6-3	243	2/4/59	10	North Carolina
21	Thompson, Reyna	CB	6-0	193	8/28/63	5	Baylor
34	Tillman, Lewis	RB	6-0	195	4/16/66	2	Jackson State
28	Walls, Everson	CB	6-1	194	12/28/59	10	Grambling State
73	Washington, John	DE	6-4	275	2/20/63	5	Oklahoma State
43	Whitmore, David	S	6-0	235	7/6/67	R	Stephen F. Austin
59	Williams, Brian	C-G	6-5	300	6/8/66	2	Minnesota
23	Williams, Perry	CB	6-2	203	5/12/61	7	North Carolina State

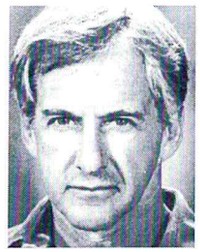
OFFENSE				
WR	**—82 Mark Ingram**	81 Stacy Robinson		
LT	**—76 John Elliott**	64 Tom Rehder		
LG	**—66 William Roberts**	59 Brian Williams		
C	**—65 Bart Oates**	59 Brian Williams		
RG	**—60 Eric Moore**	61 Bob Kratch		
RT	**—72 Doug Riesenberg**	60 Eric Moore		
TE	**—89 Mark Bavaro**	87 Howard Cross	80 Bob Mrosko	
WR	**—85 Stephen Baker**	84 Troy Kyles		
QB	**—15 Jeff Hostetler**	6 Matt Cavanaugh		
RB	**—24 Ottis Anderson**	30 David Meggett		
RB	**—44 Maurice Carthon**	22 Lee Rouson	34 Lewis Tillman	
DEFENSE				
LE	**—77 Eric Dorsey**	93 Mike Fox		
NT	**—74 Erik Howard**	73 John Washington		
RE	**—70 Leonard Marshall**	73 John Washington	93 Mike Fox	
LOLB	**—58 Carl Banks**	98 Johnie Cooks	57 Lawrence McGrew	
LILB	**—99 Steve DeOssie**	55 Gary Reasons	51 Bobby Abrams	
RILB	**—52 Pepper Johnson**	55 Gary Reasons	51 Bobby Abrams	
ROLB	**—56 Lawrence Taylor**	98 Johnie Cooks	51 Bobby Abrams	
LCB	**—25 Mark Collins**	21 Reyna Thompson	28 Everson Walls	
RCB	**—28 Everson Walls**	23 Perry Williams	46 Roger Brown	
SS	**—47 Greg Jackson**	26 Dave Duerson		
FS	**—29 Myron Guyton**	43 David Whitmore	28 Everson Walls	
SPECIALISTS				
P	**— 5 Sean Landeta**			
K	**— 9 Matt Bahr**			
H	**—15 Jeff Hostetler**	82 Mark Ingram		
PC	**—99 Steve DeOssie**	64 Tom Rehder		
KC	**—99 Steve DeOssie**	64 Tom Rehder		
PR	**—30 David Meggett**	85 Stephen Baker		
KR	**—30 David Meggett**	82 Mark Ingram		

Bold Face—Starters

Players and Staff

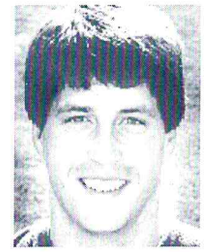
49ers

Edward J. DeBartolo, Jr.
Owner-President



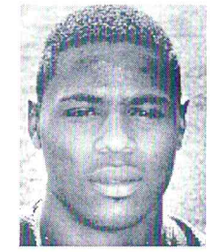
George Seifert
Head Coach

6 Mike Cofer
Kicker

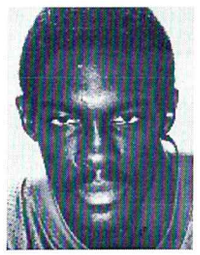


9 Barry Helton
Punter

16 Joe Montana
Quarterback

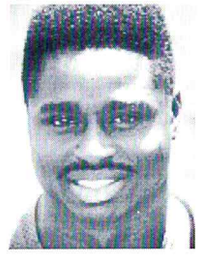


26 Darryl Pollard
Cornerback

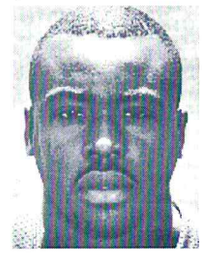


29 Don Griffin
Cornerback

33 Roger Craig
Running Back



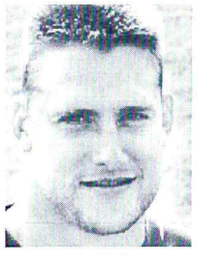
35 Dexter Carter
Running Back



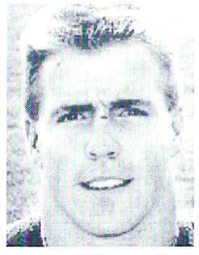
40 Johnny Jackson
Safety

42 Ronnie Lott
Safety

43 Dave Waymer
Safety



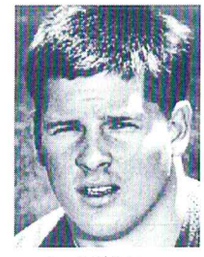
44 Tom Rathman
Running Back



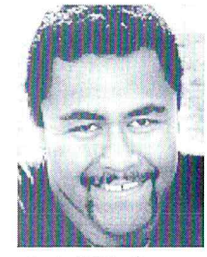
53 Bill Romanowski
Linebacker

54 Matt Millen
Linebacker

58 Keena Turner
Linebacker



59 Keith DeLong
Linebacker

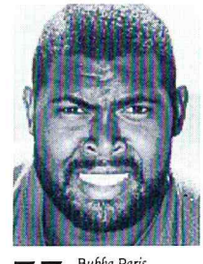


61 Jesse Sapolu
Center-Guard

62 Guy McIntyre
Guard

74 Steve Wallace
Tackle

75 Kevin Fagan
Defensive End



77 Bubba Paris
Tackle

78 Pierce Holt
Defensive Tackle

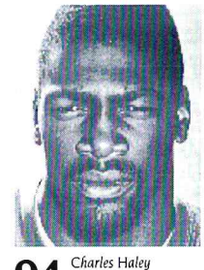
79 Harris Barton
Guard

80 Jerry Rice
Wide Receiver

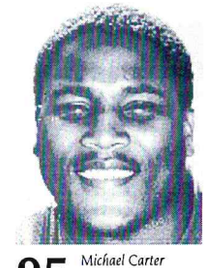
82 John Taylor
Wide Receiver

84 Brent Jones
Tight End

85 Mike Wilson
Wide Receiver



94 Charles Haley
Linebacker



95 Michael Carter
Nose Tackle

Players and Staff

Giants

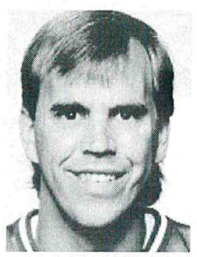
Wellington T. Mara
Owner-President

Tim Mara
Owner-V P & Treasurer

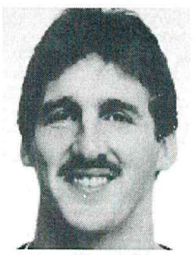
George Young
V P-General Manager

Bill Parcells
Head Coach

5 Sean Landeta
Punter



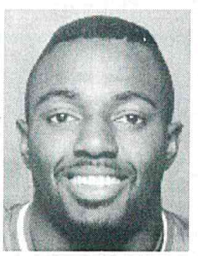
9 Matt Bahr
Kicker



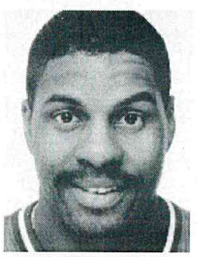
15 Jeff Hostetler
Quarterback

24 Ottis Anderson
Running Back

25 Mark Collins
Cornerback

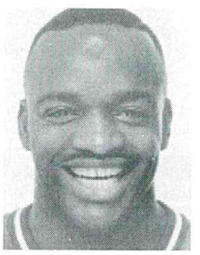


27 Rodney Hampton
Running Back



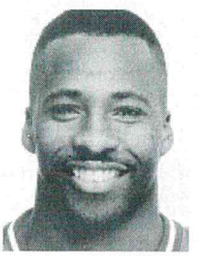
28 Everson Walls
Cornerback

29 Myron Guyton
Safety



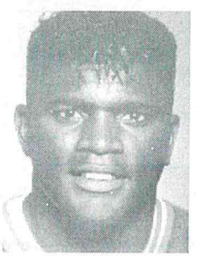
30 David Meggett
Running Back

44 Maurice Carthon
Running Back



47 Greg Jackson
Safety

52 Pepper Johnson
Linebacker



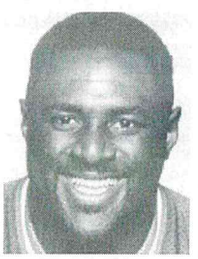
56 Lawrence Taylor
Linebacker

58 Carl Banks
Linebacker

60 Eric Moore
Guard

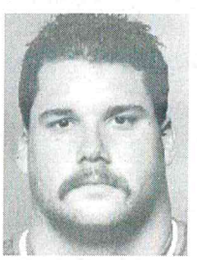
65 Bart Oates
Center

66 William Roberts
Guard



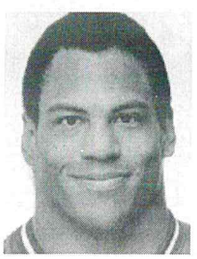
70 Leonard Marshall
Defensive End

72 Doug Riesenberg
Tackle



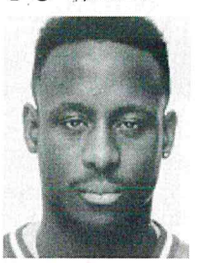
74 Erik Howard
Nose Tackle

76 John Elliott
Tackle



77 Eric Dorsey
Defensive End

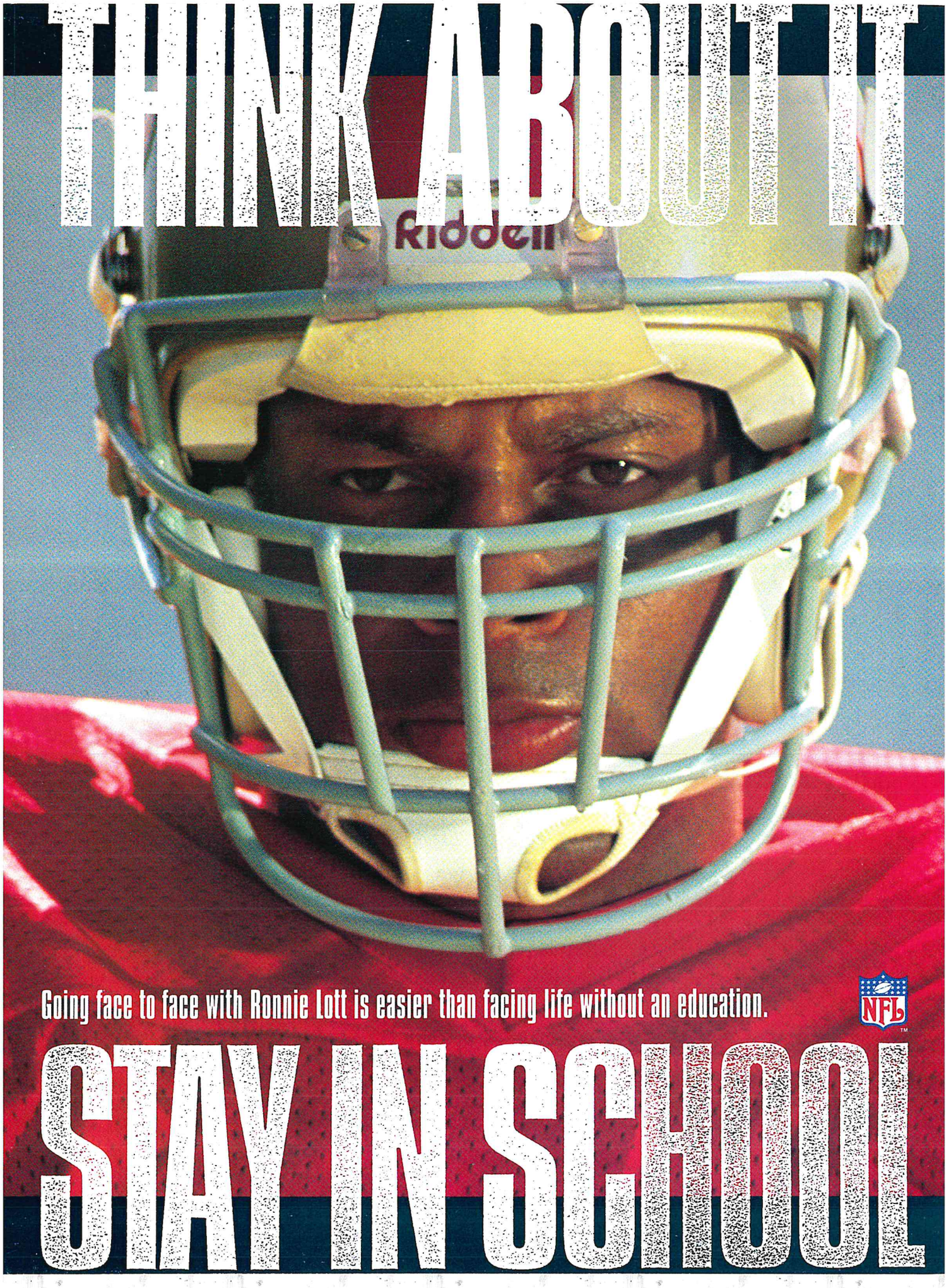
82 Mark Ingram
Wide Receiver

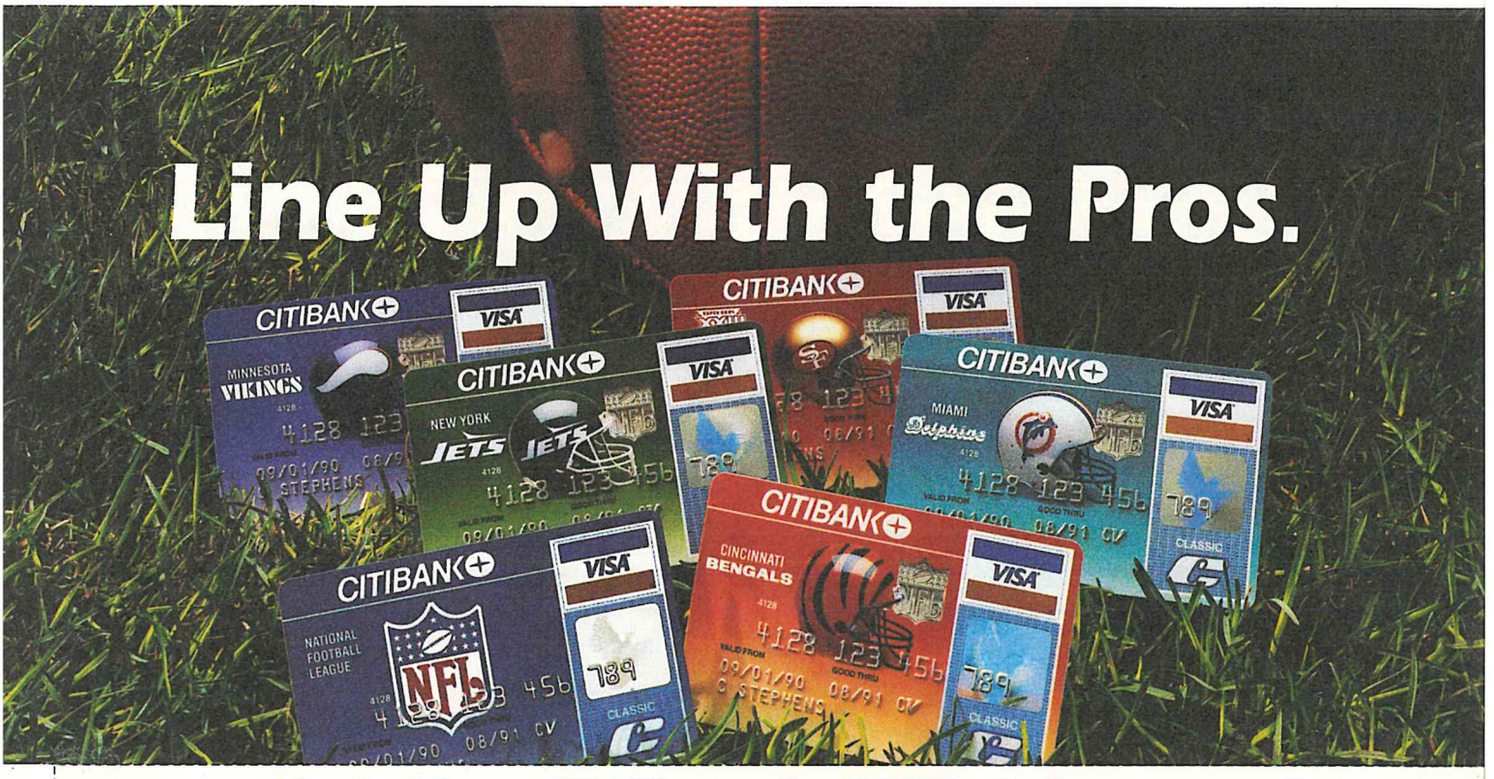


85 Stephen Baker
Wide Receiver

89 Mark Bavaro
Tight End

99 Steve DeOssie
Linebacker


THINK ABOUT IT
Riddell
Going face to face with Ronnie Lott is easier than facing life without an education.
NFL
STAY IN SCHOOL



Get the Citibank NFL Visa card.

Just follow the numbered steps!

DETACH ALONG PERFORATED LINE, FOLD, MOISTEN HERE, SEAL AND MAIL - PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE OR TAPE ▲

1 CIRCLE THE NAME OF YOUR TEAM BELOW (select only one, please)

A Falcons	**D** Cowboys	**G** Packers	**J** Jets	**M** Vikings	**P** Steelers	**S** Seahawks	**V** Dolphins	**Y** Broncos	**3** NFL Shield
B Bills	**E** Bengals	**H** Oilers	**K** Chiefs	**N** Patriots	**Q** Lions	**T** Buccaneers	**W** Redskins	**Z** 49ers	**4** Giants
C Bears	**F** Eagles	**I** Colts	**L** Cardinals	**O** Saints	**R** Raiders	**U** Browns	**X** Chargers	**2** Rams	

2 PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Print full name as you wish it to appear on the card. First, Middle, Last				Home Phone ( )	
Your Home Address Number and Street	Apt. No.	City or Town	State	Zip Code	Years There
Name of Home Phone Listing If Different From Yours			Date of Birth Month / Day /	Year	
Previous Home Address Number and Street	Apt. No.	City or Town	State	Zip Code	Years There
☐ Own Home ☐ Rent ☐ Other ☐ Own Condo/Co-Op ☐ Parents			Social Security Number		

3 PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK

Business Name or Employer	Position	Years At Job	Business Phone ( )	
Check Here If ☐ Retired ☐ Self-Employed	If Retired or Self-Employed, Bank Name	Bank Phone ( )	Account Number	

4 ABOUT YOUR EXISTING ACCOUNTS

Please check those that apply. Be sure to specify Institution/Bank Name.

☐ Money Market/NOW Account Institution name:	☐ Visa/MasterCard
☐ Checking Account Institution name:	☐ Diner's Club
☐ Savings Account Institution name:	☐ American Express Card
	☐ Department Store/Sears
	☐ Gasoline
	☐ Other

5 PLEASE INITIAL FOR CREDITSHIELD

I want to help protect my credit rating by enrolling in the optional CreditShield credit card insurance system. I have read and understand the CreditShield insurance and cost disclosures on the back of this application, and authorize the premium to be billed to this account.

INITIAL HERE YES_____ NO_____

6 ABOUT YOUR INCOME

You need not include spouse's income, alimony, child support or maintenance payments paid to you if you are not relying on them to establish credit-worthiness. Your total annual income from all sources must be at least $12,000 to be considered for cardmembership.

Your Total Personal Yearly Income $	Other Household Income $

7 WOULD YOU LIKE AN ADDITIONAL CARD AT NO CHARGE?

If Yes, write in the full name of the user, First, Middle, Last

8 PLEASE SIGN THIS AUTHORIZATION

By signing below I authorize Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. to check my credit history and exchange information about how I handle my account with proper persons and with credit bureaus if I am issued a card. I authorize Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. to forward my name and address to National Football League Properties, Inc. or its agent, for NFL promotional purposes. I authorize my employer, my bank, and any other references listed above to release and/or verify information to Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. and its affiliates in order to determine my eligibility for the Citibank credit card. I am aware that information gathered about me is used to determine my eligibility for the credit card account and any renewal or future extension of credit. If I ask, I will be told whether or not consumer reports on me were requested and the names of the credit bureaus, with their addresses, that provided the reports. If I designate an authorized user to use my card, I understand that account information will also be reported to credit bureaus in the authorized user's name. I certify that I am 18 years of age, or older, and that the information provided is accurate. I understand that if I use the card or authorize its use or do not cancel my account within 30 days after I receive the card, the Citibank Agreement sent to me with the card will be binding on me and that I will be responsible for all charges incurred and all applicable fees.

In order to be considered for a Citibank NFL Visa card you must complete and sign this application. You must be a U.S. resident to apply. Omission of any information requested in this application may be grounds for denial. I have read and understood the disclosures on this application. Please allow 30 days to process your application.

Applicant's Signature Date

N8SND -J8

CITIBANK®
A CITICORP COMPANY

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CITIBANK NFL VISA® CREDIT TERMS

Annual Percentage Rate for Purchases	19.8%
Annual Fee	$25
Grace Period	20-25 days
Minimum Finance Charge	50¢
Method of Computing the Balance for Purchases	Average Daily Balance (including new purchases)
Late Fee on Purchases and Cash Advances	$10
Cash Advance Transaction Fee	At a financial institution, 2% of amount of advance but not less than $2 or more than $10. At an Automated Teller Machine, $1.75.

The information about the costs of the card described in this application is accurate as of May 1990. This information may have changed after that date. To find out what may have changed, write to us at P.O. Box 6116, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-6116. Or call 1-800-NFL-VISA.

WISCONSIN RESIDENTS ONLY: Wisconsin law provides that no agreement, court order or individual statement applying to marital property will affect a creditor's interest unless prior to the time credit is granted the creditor is furnished with a copy of the agreement, court order, or statement, or has actual knowledge of the adverse provision.

To enroll in CreditShield you must be under age 66; age 70 in AZ, FL, NV and VA; age 71 in MI, OK, GA; life and disability coverages end at these same ages. Monthly benefits are limited to the minimum amount due on your account excluding past due or over credit line amounts for up to 12 months, and total benefits are limited to your total outstanding balance, up to $5,000, at the time you were first unable to work or became unemployed. Benefits begin after 30 consecutive days of unemployment or disability. For unemployment coverage, you must be gainfully employed at least 30 hours per week (not self employed or an independent contractor) for at least 90 consecutive days prior to the date of loss. Unemployment insurance excludes retirement, resignation, voluntary loss of income, job loss due to willful or criminal misconduct or disability otherwise covered or expressly excluded by CreditShield. Life insurance excludes suicide during the first 6 months (except in MD and MO) and benefits will be paid in the amount of the total insured outstanding balance at the date of loss, not to exceed $5,000. Disability insurance excludes losses caused by normal pregnancy (except in MA or NV) or childbirth, intentionally self-inflicted injuries (except in MD), or a condition which required medical diagnosis or treatment in the 6 months before coverage began, if the loss occurs in the first 6 months of coverage. CreditShield costs $.60 per $100 per month of insured average daily balance (in NJ at $.592) except: life/disability only CT and SD at $.2089, IA at $.216, MA at $.184, and VT ($.051 life and $.099 disability); life/unemployment only in MI at $.523; life only in NY at $.0503 and PA at $.0783; unemployment only in TX $.4229. CreditShield is not available in ME and NC nor to cardmembers residing outside the U.S. Disability benefits may exceed one year in CA, HI, NJ, TN and WI. The coverage effective date will be on your certificates. Underwritten by American Security Ins. Co., Standard Guaranty Ins. and Union Security Life Ins. Co. of Atlanta, GA under Policy Forms LOI (5/85), SG-LOI (5/85), SG-LOI-SUPLN-TX (2/86), L-I-K, and V-L-D(DEL)PA.

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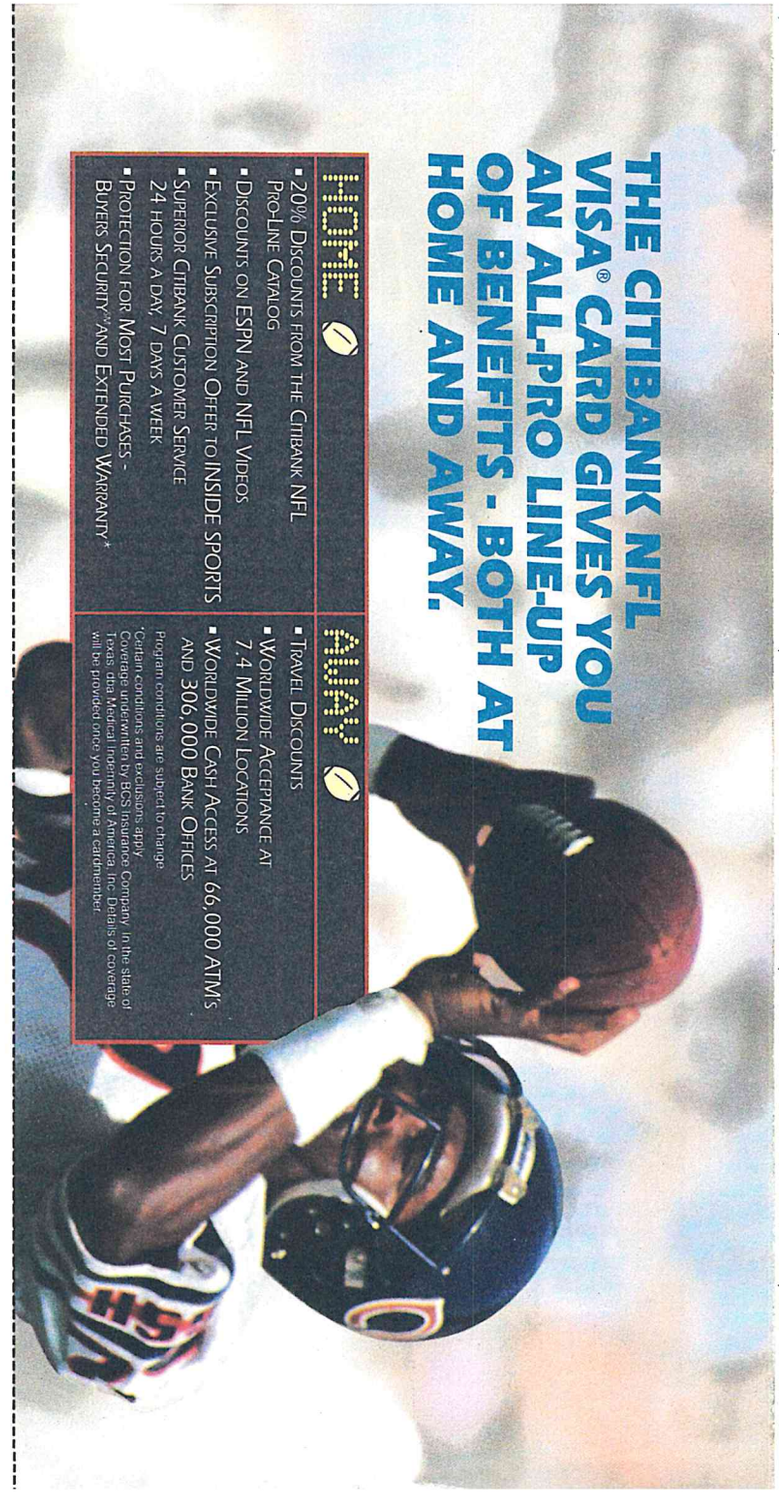
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA), N.A.
P.O. Box 6097
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57117-9811

THE CITIBANK NFL VISA® CARD GIVES YOU AN ALL-PRO LINE-UP OF BENEFITS - BOTH AT HOME AND AWAY.



HOME

- 20% Discounts from the Citibank NFL Pro-Line Catalog
- Discounts on ESPN and NFL Videos
- Exclusive Subscription Offer to INSIDE SPORTS
- Superior Citibank Customer Service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Protection for Most Purchases - Buyers Security* and Extended Warranty*

AWAY

- Travel Discounts
- Worldwide Acceptance at 7.4 Million Locations
- Worldwide Cash Access at 66,000 ATMs and 306,000 Bank Offices

Program conditions are subject to change.

*Certain conditions and exclusions apply. Coverage underwritten by BCS Insurance Company. In the State of Texas, this Medical Insert only of America, Inc. Details of coverage will be provided once you become a cardmember.

SPOTLIGHT

★All-Time Super Bowl Team★
★Packers Then and Now★
★Pete Rozelle and Super Bowl Pioneers★
★Making the Lombardi Trophy★
★Steelers, 49ers: The 4-0 Club★
★Tampa Bay Pictorial★
★Memories in Roman Numerals★

SPOTLIGHT XXV

Best of the Best

Presenting the Silver Anniversary All-Time Super Bowl Team

By Ray Didinger

The late Andy Warhol once said that everyone on the planet—you, me, your brother-in-law, everybody—would be famous for 15 minutes. It was Warhol's theory that fate moved the grand spotlight around in such a way that it fell on all of us at one time or another. Fleeting attention, but attention nonetheless.

We've seen evidence of this in sports. Buster Douglas wins the heavyweight championship. Don Larsen pitches a perfect game in the World Series. Mike Eruzione scores the goal that has us all believing in miracles at the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Those are the kinds of deeds Andy Warhol had in mind. Common men performing uncommonly.

The Super Bowl hasn't been like that. For the most part, the National Football League's showcase event has been dominated by its greatest coaches and players.

There have been a few surprises over the years, but not many.

This was reflected in the fan voting for the Silver Anniversary Super Bowl All-Time Team, sponsored by Buick as part of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration. Twenty-seven men were selected...and each was the real thing.

Lombardi. Montana. Csonka. Upshaw. Greene. Lambert. And so on. It is a team of genuine legends.

Malcolm Emmons

This, too, was reflected in the balloting—12 team members already are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have the largest representation on the team, nine players. The long shot was Donnie Shell, a free agent who began as a special teams player and later started three Super Bowls for the Steelers. Shell finished first in fan balloting at safety.

"They say the test of greatness is the test of time," Shell says, "and I think this [vote] proves we had a truly great team in Pittsburgh. I never considered myself a star, but I think the level at which we played—the level that was demanded—made you a star.

"In the seventies, the Steelers were the team and the Super Bowl was the game. We were meant for each other. Winning just came naturally."

"Vince [Lombardi] was like a man possessed. He really felt that if we lost, a lot of what we had accomplished would be tarnished. We weren't about to let that happen."

It is only fitting that the man whose name appears on the Super Bowl trophy, Vince Lombardi, would be the fans' choice as head coach of the Silver Anniversary Super Bowl Team. It was Lombardi who first defined the AFL-NFL Championship Game as some-

thing special. Back in 1967, the rest of us weren't so sure. The inaugural game didn't come close to selling out the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Press requests were a small fraction of what they are today.

We didn't know quite what to make of the event.

Was it a genuine championship game or just a glorified exhibition between two rival leagues?

Who were the Kansas City Chiefs, anyway?

One glimpse of Lombardi's face that week told us all we needed to know. This was the real thing. We focused our attention accordingly. So did Lombardi's players, who pounded the Chiefs 35-10 in Super Bowl I (followed, a year later, by a 33-14 victory over the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl II).

"Vince was really hooked on this thing about carrying the banner for the NFL," says Bob Skoronski, an offensive tackle for the Packers of the 1960s. "He would read us letters and telegrams from NFL people—men like [Chicago Bears owner] George Halas and [New York Giants owner] Wellington Mara—who all said basically the same thing: 'Go out there and show those [AFL] guys who's boss.'

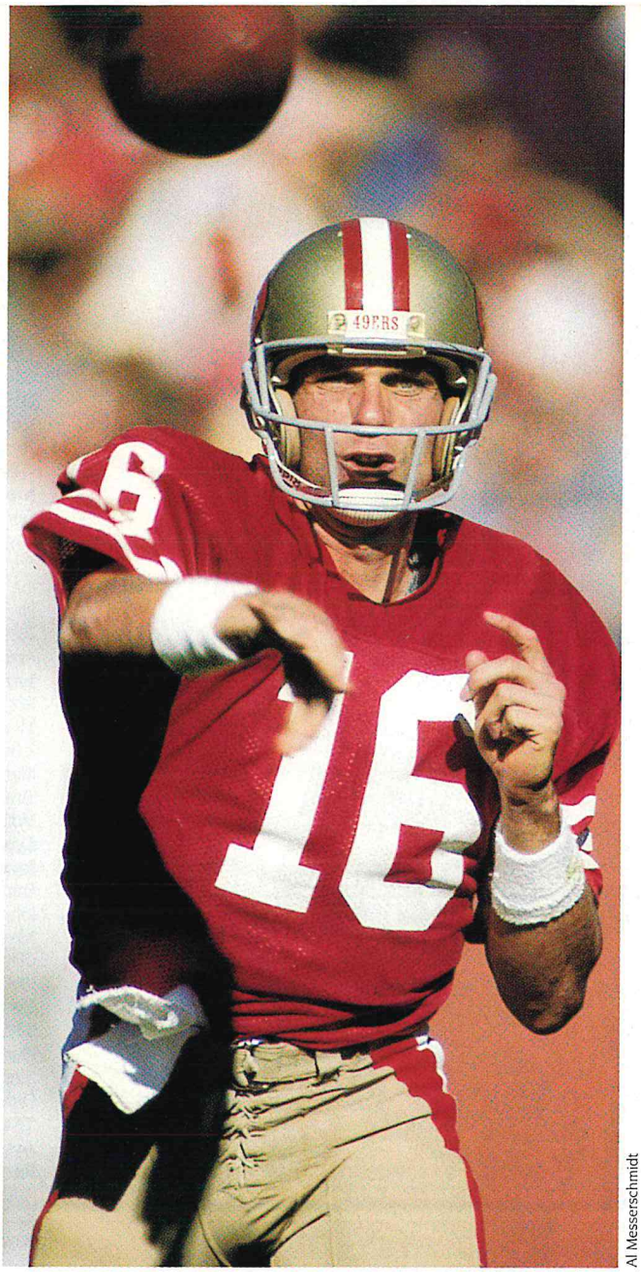
"Vince was like a man possessed. He really felt that if we lost, a lot of what we had accomplished [four NFL titles before Super Bowl I] would be tarnished. We weren't about to let that happen. Most of all, we didn't want to let him down."

The Packers dedicated their second Super Bowl to Lombardi, who reportedly would retire as head coach. As the final seconds ticked away, guard Jerry Kramer and tackle Forrest Gregg hoisted Lombardi to their shoulders.

"One more time, coach," Kramer said.

Lombardi smiled. "This is the best way to leave a football field," he said.

Lombardi brought fire to the Super Bowl. San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana brought ice. Four times Montana led the 49ers into the big game, four times he came away with a victory. No single player has dominated the Super Bowl stage quite like Montana has.



Al Messerschmidt

"Some guys get tighter the bigger the game is, but Joe [Montana] just seems to get better. If every game were a Super Bowl, Joe would be undefeated."

That was reflected in the fan balloting for the team: Montana received more votes than Terry Bradshaw, Roger Staubach, Joe Namath, and Bart Starr *combined*.

Montana's grace under pressure is unmatched among his peers. In four Super Bowls, Montana has completed 83 of 122 passes (68 percent) for 1,142 yards and 11 touchdowns. He has not thrown an interception and, as far as we can tell, never has broken a sweat.

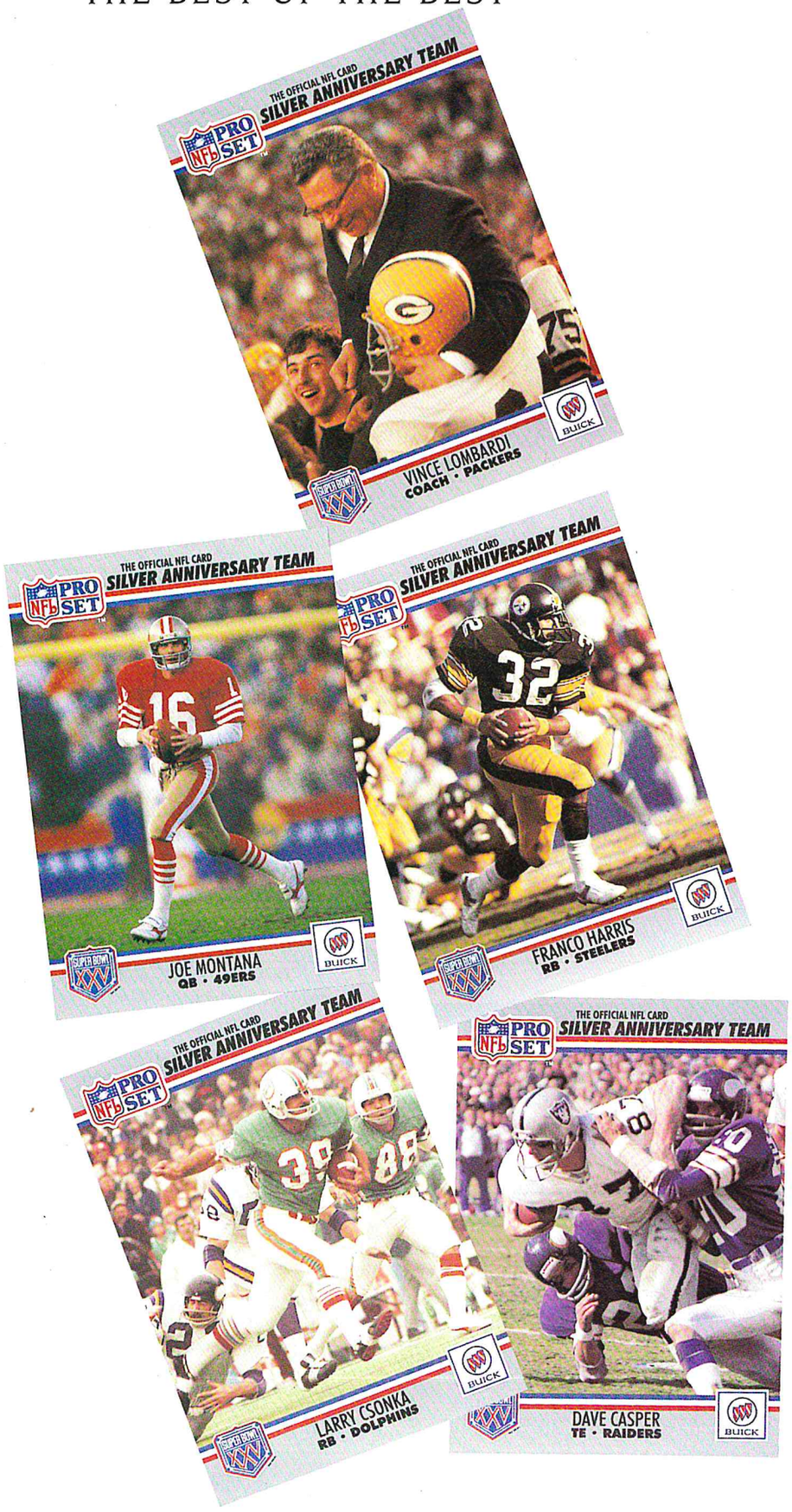
"Some guys get tighter the bigger the game is, but Joe just seems to get better," says former 49ers lineman Randy Cross. "If every game were a Super Bowl, Joe would be undefeated."

Montana was voted most valuable player in three different Super Bowls, yet he is best remembered for his performance in Super Bowl XXIII, the one game in which he wasn't singled out for the individual honor.

That was the game in which Montana brought the 49ers back in the closing minutes, driving them 92 yards in 11 plays to score the deciding touchdown in a 20-16 triumph over the Cincinnati Bengals. Montana completed 8 of 9 passes on the drive, the last one a 10-yard collaboration with wide receiver John Taylor in the end zone.

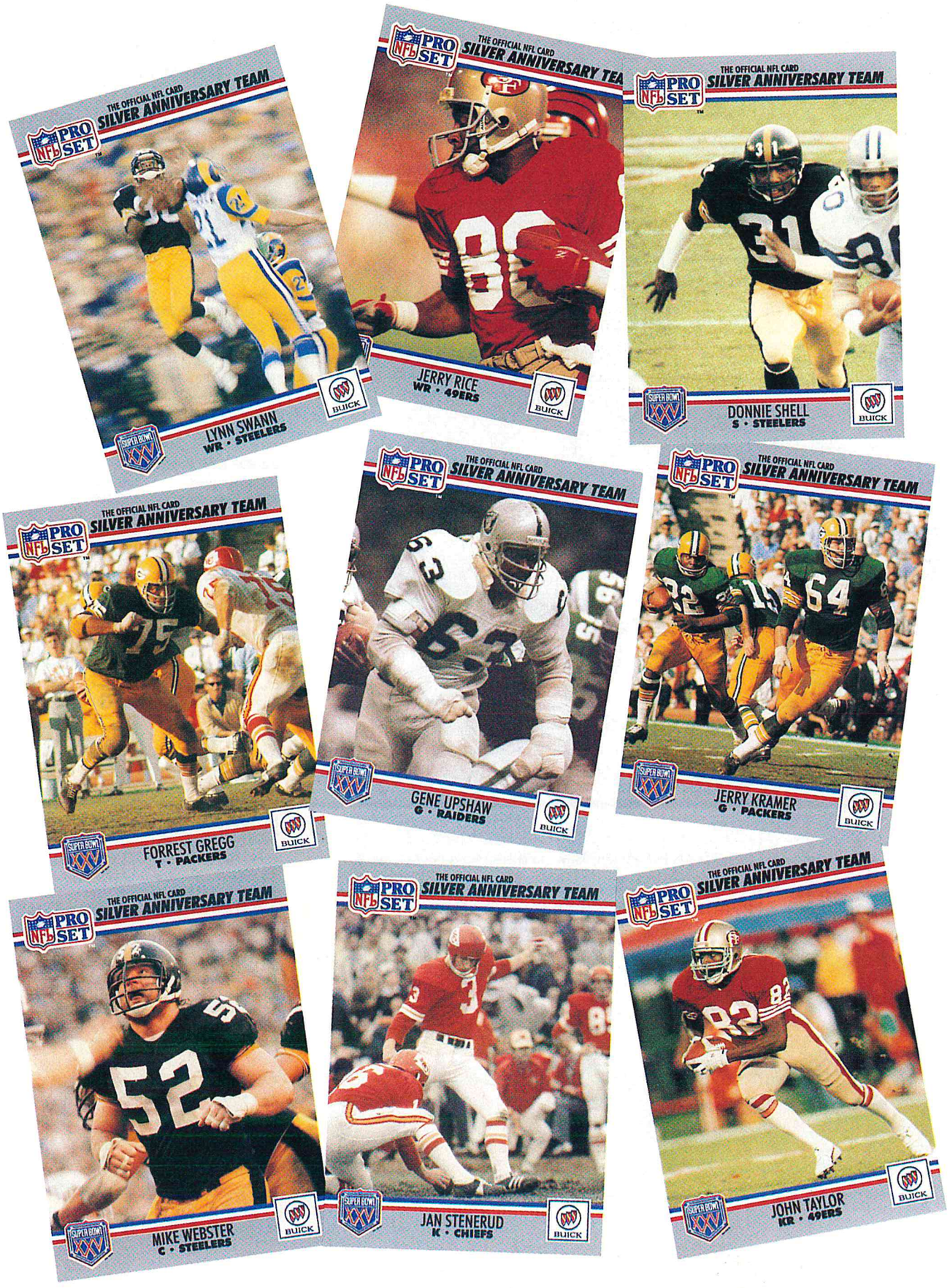
It was the fifteenth time in Montana's career that he had brought the 49ers from behind to win in the fourth quarter, so it didn't come as any surprise to his teammates. The game merely underscored what they already knew—come crunch time, Montana is State of the Art.

(*Continued on page* 110)



OFFENSE
(Final Voting)

	TOTAL	PCT. OF VOTES
HEAD COACH		
Vince Lombardi	**397,923**	**35.7**
Bill Walsh	208,708	18.7
Tom Landry	185,522	16.7
Chuck Noll	151,435	13.6
Don Shula	123,442	11.1
Joe Gibbs	23,725	2.1
Tom Flores	22,844	2.1
QUARTERBACK		
Joe Montana	**747,801**	**67.5**
Terry Bradshaw	134,584	12.1
Roger Staubach	111,475	10.1
Bart Starr	52,235	4.7
Joe Namath	50,080	4.5
Jim Plunkett	12,248	1.1
RUNNING BACKS		
Franco Harris	**620,931**	**29.2**
Larry Csonka	**518,690**	**24.4**
Roger Craig	345,220	16.2
Marcus Allen	292,326	13.8
John Riggins	276,265	13.0
Matt Snell	38,338	1.8
Timmy Smith	34,638	1.6
WIDE RECEIVERS		
Lynn Swann	**775,447**	**36.6**
Jerry Rice	**622,849**	**29.4**
Fred Biletnikoff	328,613	15.5
John Stallworth	168,365	7.9
Max McGee	75,775	3.6
Cliff Branch	65,353	3.1
Ricky Sanders	58,308	2.7
George Sauer	25,049	1.2
TIGHT END		
Dave Casper	**712,096**	**66.2**
Marv Fleming	241,904	22.4
Dan Ross	122,763	11.4
TACKLES		
Art Shell	**686,645**	**32.5**
Forrest Gregg	**447,473**	**21.2**
Anthony Muñoz	374,373	17.7
Joe Jacoby	300,417	14.2
Rayfield Wright	129,041	6.1
Ron Yary	121,180	5.7
Winston Hill	54,161	2.6
GUARDS		
Gene Upshaw	**612,571**	**29.3**
Jerry Kramer	**424,104**	**20.3**
Randy Cross	374,383	17.9
Bob Kuechenberg	283,654	13.5
Larry Little	236,886	11.3
John Niland	85,431	4.1
Gerry Mullins	76,038	3.6
CENTER		
Mike Webster	**641,163**	**59.9**
Dwight Stephenson	168,285	15.7
Dave Dalby	146,283	13.7
Jim Langer	114,639	10.7
KICKER		
Jan Stenerud	**422,654**	**43.2**
Ray Wersching	191,644	19.6
Kevin Butler	161,938	16.5
Don Chandler	116,785	11.9
Jim Turner	86,551	8.8
KICK RETURNER		
John Taylor	**349,826**	**32.3**
Fulton Walker	269,716	24.9
Larry Anderson	238,745	22.0
Stanford Jennings	114,946	10.6
Mike Nelms	109,939	10.2


THE OFFICIAL NFL CARD
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
PRO SET
LYNN SWANN
WR • STEELERS
JERRY RICE
WR • 49ERS
DONNIE SHELL
S • STEELERS
FORREST GREGG
T • PACKERS
GENE UPSHAW
G • RAIDERS
JERRY KRAMER
G • PACKERS
MIKE WEBSTER
C • STEELERS
JAN STENERUD
K • CHIEFS
JOHN TAYLOR
KR • 49ERS
BUICK

DEFENSE
(Final Voting)

	TOTAL	PCT. OF VOTES
DEFENSIVE ENDS		
L.C. Greenwood	**590,672**	**26.5**
Ed (Too Tall) Jones	**499,279**	**22.4**
Richard Dent	478,756	21.5
Willie Davis	264,926	11.9
Harvey Martin	208,664	9.3
Dwight White	126,803	5.7
Ross Browner	60,756	2.7
DEFENSIVE TACKLES		
Joe Greene	**813,591**	**37.5**
Randy White	**402,707**	**18.5**
Alan Page	345,088	15.9
Bob Lilly	344,308	15.9
Buck Buchanan	126,440	5.8
Manny Fernandez	88,566	4.1
Curley Culp	50,266	2.3
INSIDE LINEBACKERS		
Jack Lambert	**672,149**	**30.9**
Mike Singletary	**526,410**	**24.2**
Ray Nitschke	438,179	20.1
Nick Buoniconti	242,299	11.1
Lee Roy Jordan	171,828	7.9
Willie Lanier	126,563	5.8
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS		
Jack Ham	**764,904**	**36.4**
Ted Hendricks	**599,836**	**28.5**
Carl Banks	320,706	15.3
Chuck Howley	203,171	9.7
Charles Haley	127,036	6.0
Rod Martin	85,840	4.1
CORNERBACKS		
Ronnie Lott	**697,335**	**34.6**
Mel Blount	**383,752**	**19.0**
Herb Adderley	240,386	11.9
Lester Hayes	214,947	10.7
Mel Renfro	192,683	9.6
Willie Brown	125,859	6.2
Mike Haynes	92,915	4.6
Eric Wright	68,869	3.4
SAFETIES		
Donnie Shell	**524,180**	**24.8**
Willie Wood	**369,468**	**17.4**
Cliff Harris	324,148	15.3
Jake Scott	289,407	13.7
Dick Anderson	221,396	10.4
David Fulcher	178,225	8.4
Mike Wagner	115,685	5.6
Johnny Robinson	94,083	4.4
PUNTER		
Ray Guy	**858,825**	**79.2**
Lee Johnson	75,706	7.0
Larry Seiple	74,990	6.9
Jerrel Wilson	74,383	6.9

Players and Staff

Giants

Wellington T. Mara
Owner-President

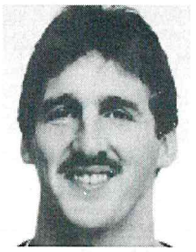
Tim Mara
Owner-V P & Treasurer

George Young
V P-General Manager

Bill Parcells
Head Coach

5 Sean Landeta
Punter

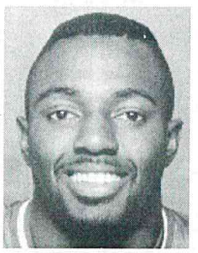
9 Matt Bahr
Kicker



15 Jeff Hostetler
Quarterback

24 Ottis Anderson
Running Back

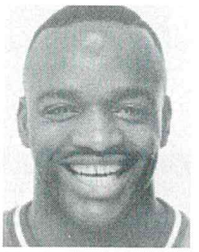
25 Mark Collins
Cornerback



27 Rodney Hampton
Running Back

28 Everson Walls
Cornerback

29 Myron Guyton
Safety

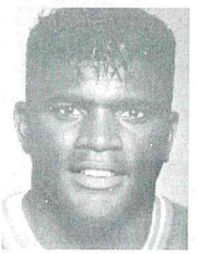


30 David Meggett
Running Back

44 Maurice Carthon
Running Back

47 Greg Jackson
Safety

52 Pepper Johnson
Linebacker



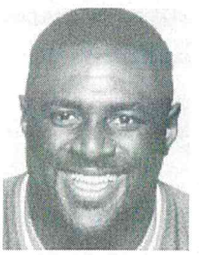
56 Lawrence Taylor
Linebacker

58 Carl Banks
Linebacker

60 Eric Moore
Guard

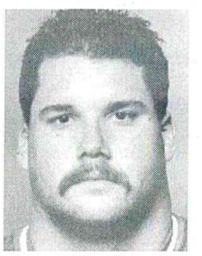
65 Bart Oates
Center

66 William Roberts
Guard



70 Leonard Marshall
Defensive End

72 Doug Riesenberg
Tackle



74 Erik Howard
Nose Tackle

76 John Elliott
Tackle

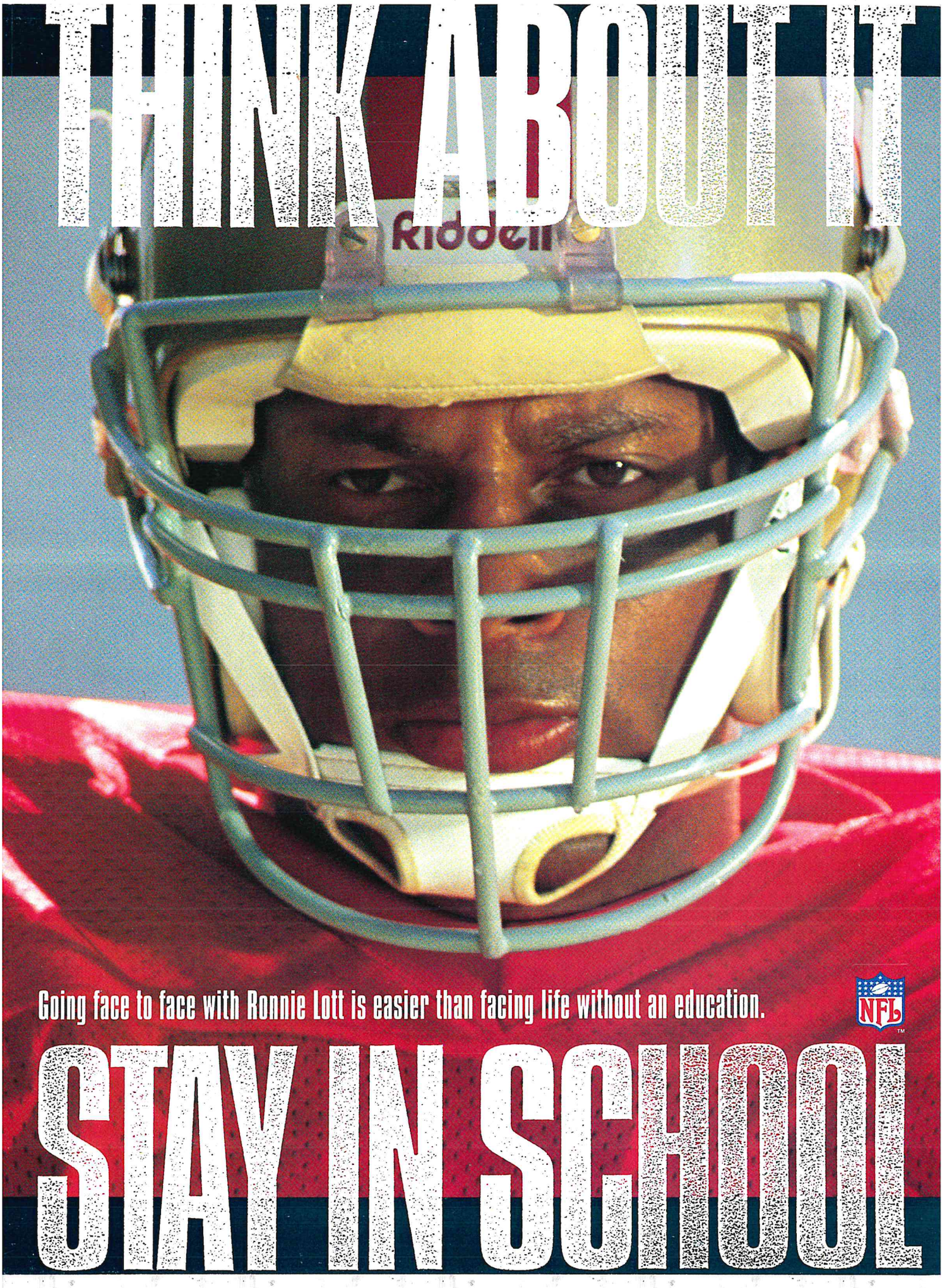
77 Eric Dorsey
Defensive End

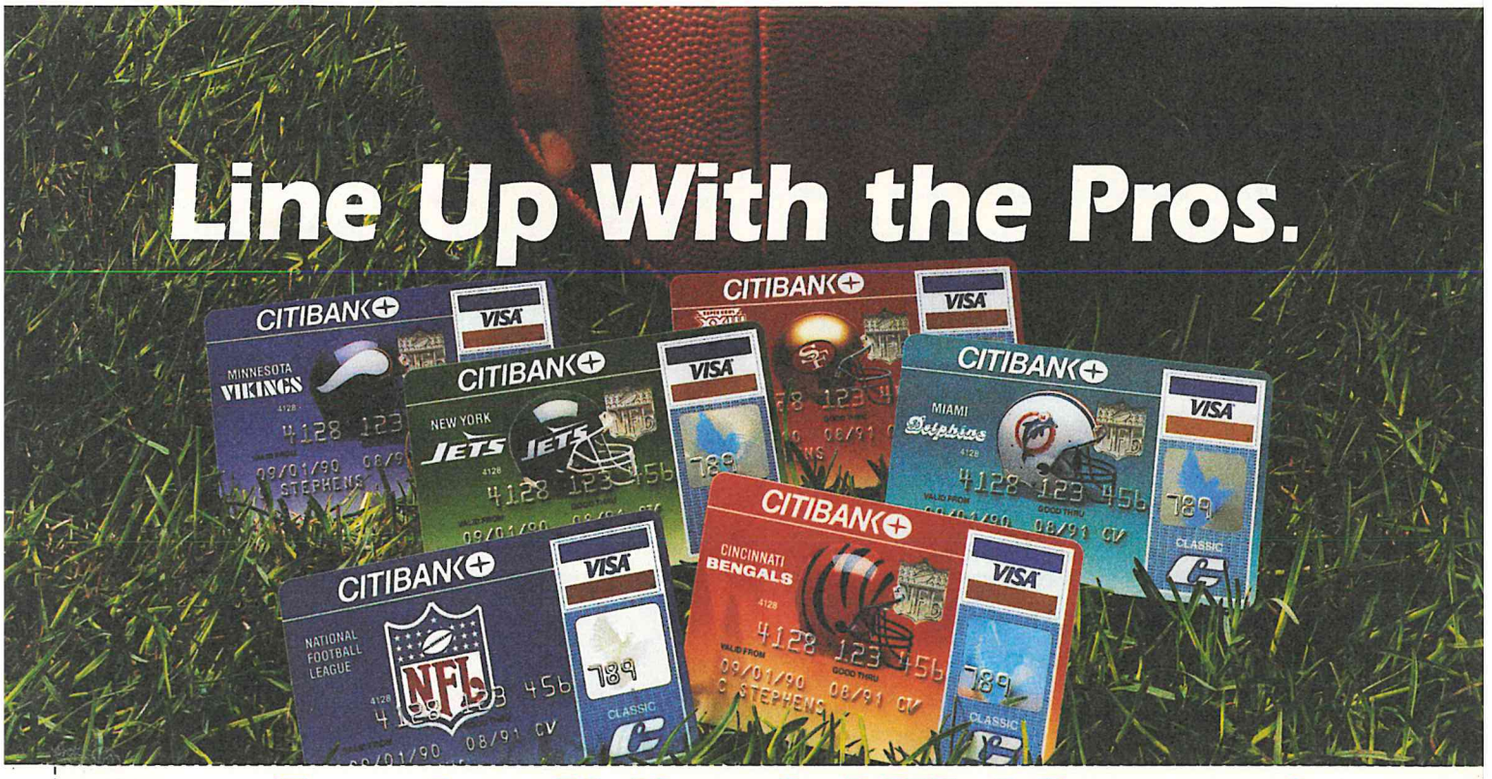
82 Mark Ingram
Wide Receiver

85 Stephen Baker
Wide Receiver

89 Mark Bavaro
Tight End

99 Steve DeOssie
Linebacker


THINK ABOUT IT
Riddell
Going face to face with Ronnie Lott is easier than facing life without an education.
NFL
STAY IN SCHOOL



Get the Citibank NFL Visa card.

Just follow the numbered steps!

1 CIRCLE THE NAME OF YOUR TEAM BELOW (select only one, please)

A Falcons	**D** Cowboys	**G** Packers	**J** Jets	**M** Vikings	**P** Steelers	**S** Seahawks	**V** Dolphins	**Y** Broncos	**3** NFL Shield
B Bills	**E** Bengals	**H** Oilers	**K** Chiefs	**N** Patriots	**Q** Lions	**T** Buccaneers	**W** Redskins	**Z** 49ers	**4** Giants
C Bears	**F** Eagles	**I** Colts	**L** Cardinals	**O** Saints	**R** Raiders	**U** Browns	**X** Chargers	**2** Rams	

2 PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Print full name as you wish it to appear on the card. First, Middle, Last					Home Phone ( )
Your Home Address Number and Street	Apt. No.	City or Town	State	Zip Code	Years There
Name of Home Phone Listing If Different From Yours					Date of Birth Month / Day / Year
Previous Home Address Number and Street	Apt. No.	City or Town	State	Zip Code	Years There
☐ Own Home ☐ Rent ☐ Other ☐ Own Condo/Co-Op ☐ Parents					Social Security Number

3 PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK

Business Name or Employer	Position		Years At Job	Business Phone ( )
Check Here If ☐ Retired ☐ Self-Employed	If Retired or Self-Employed, Bank Name	Bank Phone ( )		Account Number

4 ABOUT YOUR EXISTING ACCOUNTS

Please check those that apply. Be sure to specify Institution/Bank Name.

☐ Money Market/NOW Account Institution name:	☐ Visa/MasterCard
☐ Checking Account Institution name:	☐ Diner's Club
☐ Savings Account Institution name:	☐ American Express Card
	☐ Department Store/Sears
	☐ Gasoline
	☐ Other

5 PLEASE INITIAL FOR CREDITSHIELD

I want to help protect my credit rating by enrolling in the optional CreditShield credit card insurance system. I have read and understand the CreditShield insurance and cost disclosures on the back of this application, and authorize the premium to be billed to this account.

INITIAL HERE YES_____ NO_____

6 ABOUT YOUR INCOME

You need not include spouse's income, alimony, child support or maintenance payments paid to you if you are not relying on them to establish credit-worthiness. Your total annual income from all sources must be at least $12,000 to be considered for cardmembership.

Your Total Personal Yearly Income $	Other Household Income $

7 WOULD YOU LIKE AN ADDITIONAL CARD AT NO CHARGE?

If Yes, write in the full name of the user, First, Middle, Last

8 PLEASE SIGN THIS AUTHORIZATION

By signing below I authorize Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. to check my credit history and exchange information about how I handle my account with proper persons and with credit bureaus if I am issued a card. I authorize Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. to forward my name and address to National Football League Properties, Inc. or its agent, for NFL promotional purposes. I authorize my employer, my bank, and any other references listed above to release and/or verify information to Citibank (South Dakota), N.A. and its affiliates in order to determine my eligibility for the Citibank credit card. I am aware that information gathered about me is used to determine my eligibility for the credit card account and any renewal or future extension of credit. If I ask, I will be told whether or not consumer reports on me were requested and the names of the credit bureaus, with their addresses, that provided the reports. If I designate an authorized user to use my card, I understand that account information will also be reported to credit bureaus in the authorized user's name. I certify that I am 18 years of age, or older, and that the information provided is accurate. I understand that if I use the card or authorize its use or do not cancel my account within 30 days after I receive the card, the Citibank Agreement sent to me with the card will be binding on me and that I will be responsible for all charges incurred and all applicable fees.

In order to be considered for a Citibank NFL Visa card you must complete and sign this application. You must be a U.S. resident to apply. Omission of any information requested in this application may be grounds for denial. I have read and understood the disclosures on this application. Please allow 30 days to process your application.

Applicant's Signature Date

N8SND -J8

NFL

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A CITICORP COMPANY

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DETACH ALONG PERFORATED LINE, FOLD, MOISTEN HERE, SEAL AND MAIL - PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE OR TAPE

CITIBANK NFL VISA® CREDIT TERMS

Annual Percentage Rate for Purchases	19.8%
Annual Fee	$25
Grace Period	20-25 days
Minimum Finance Charge	50¢
Method of Computing the Balance for Purchases	Average Daily Balance (including new purchases)
Late Fee on Purchases and Cash Advances	$10
Cash Advance Transaction Fee	At a financial institution, 2% of amount of advance but not less than $2 or more than $10. At an Automated Teller Machine, $1.75.

The information about the costs of the card described in this application is accurate as of May 1990. This information may have changed after that date. To find out what may have changed, write to us at P.O. Box 6116, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-6116. Or call 1-800-NFL-VISA.

WISCONSIN RESIDENTS ONLY: Wisconsin law provides that no agreement, court order or individual statement applying to marital property will affect a creditor's interest unless prior to the time credit is granted the creditor is furnished with a copy of the agreement, court order, or statement, or has actual knowledge of the adverse provision.

To enroll in CreditShield you must be under age 66; age 70 in AZ, FL, NV and VA; age 71 in MI, OK, GA; life and disability coverages end at these same ages. Monthly benefits are limited to the minimum amount due on your account excluding past due or over credit line amounts for up to 12 months, and total benefits are limited to your total outstanding balance, up to $5,000, at the time you were first unable to work or became unemployed. Benefits begin after 30 consecutive days of unemployment or disability. For unemployment coverage, you must be gainfully employed at least 30 hours per week (not self employed or an independent contractor) for at least 90 consecutive days prior to the date of loss. Unemployment insurance excludes retirement, resignation, voluntary loss of income, job loss due to willful or criminal misconduct or disability otherwise covered or expressly excluded by CreditShield. Life insurance excludes suicide during the first 6 months (except in MD and MO) and benefits will be paid in the amount of the total insured outstanding balance at the date of loss, not to exceed $5,000. Disability insurance excludes losses caused by normal pregnancy (except in MA or NV) or childbirth, intentionally self-inflicted injuries (except in MD), or a condition which required medical diagnosis or treatment in the 6 months before coverage began, if the loss occurs in the first 6 months of coverage. CreditShield costs $.60 per $100 per month of insured average daily balance (in NJ at $.592) except: life/disability only CT and SD at $.2089, IA at $.216, MA at $.184, and VT ($.051 life and $.099 disability); life/unemployment only in MI at $.523; life only in NY at $.0503 and PA at $.0783; unemployment only in TX $.4229. CreditShield is not available in ME and NC nor to cardmembers residing outside the U.S. Disability benefits may exceed one year in CA, HI, NJ, TN and WI. The coverage effective date will be on your certificates. Underwritten by American Security Ins. Co., Standard Guaranty Ins. and Union Security Life Ins. Co. of Atlanta, GA under Policy Forms LOI (5/85), SG-LOI (5/85), SG-LOI-SUPLN-TX (2/86), L-I-K, and V-L-D(DEL)PA.

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POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

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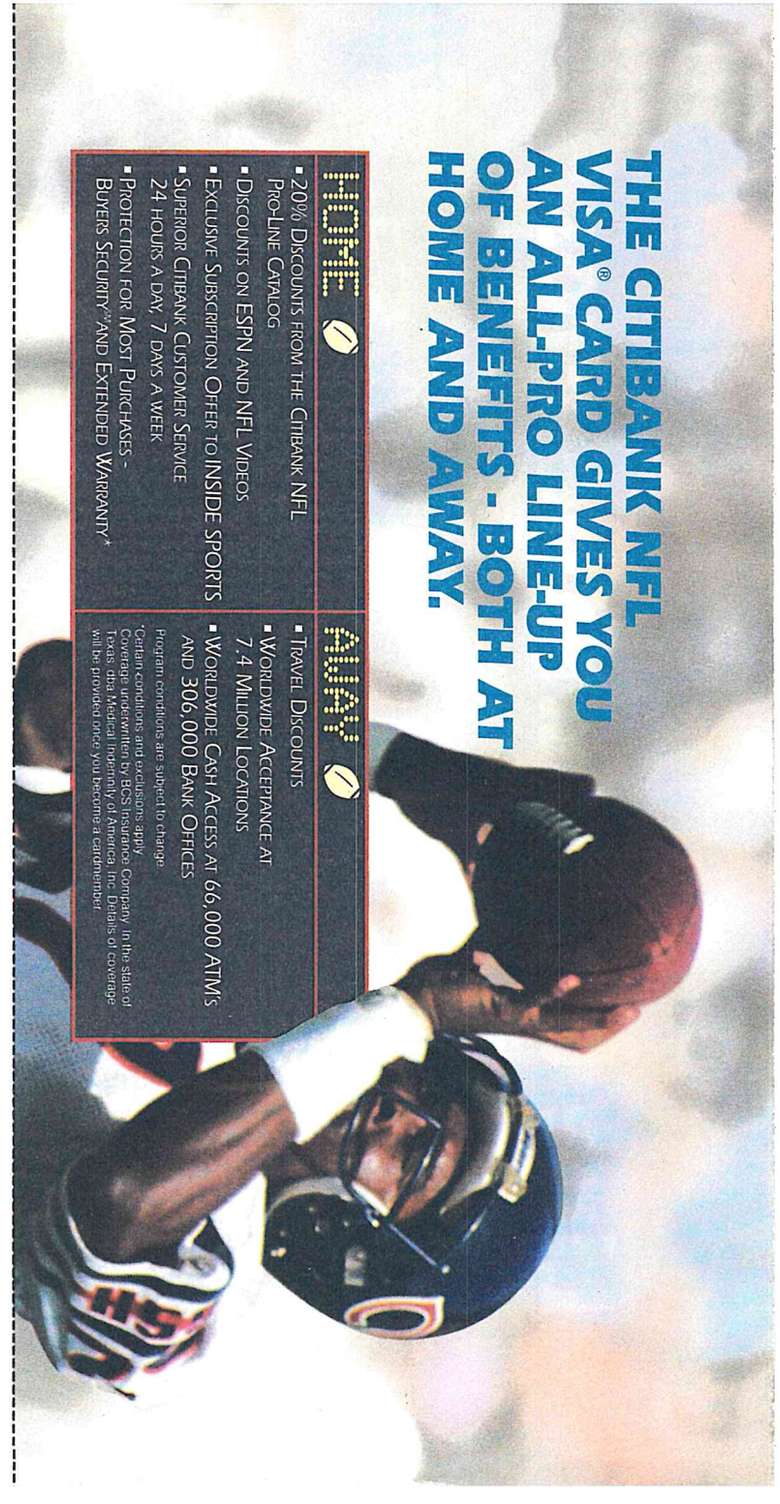
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57117-9811

THE CITIBANK NFL VISA® CARD GIVES YOU AN ALL-PRO LINE-UP OF BENEFITS - BOTH AT HOME AND AWAY.



HOME

- 20% Discounts from the Citibank NFL Pro-Line Catalog
- Discounts on ESPN and NFL Videos
- Exclusive Subscription Offer to INSIDE SPORTS
- Superior Citibank Customer Service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Protection for Most Purchases - Buyers Security™ and Extended Warranty*

AWAY

- Travel Discounts
- Worldwide Acceptance at 7.4 Million Locations
- Worldwide Cash Access at 66,000 ATMs and 306,000 Bank Offices

Program conditions are subject to change.
*Certain conditions and exclusions apply. Coverage underwritten by BGS Insurance Company. In the state of Texas, dba Medical Indemnity of America, Inc. Details of coverage will be provided once you become a cardmember.

SPOTLIGHT

★All-Time Super Bowl Team★
★Packers Then and Now★
★Pete Rozelle and Super Bowl Pioneers★
★Making the Lombardi Trophy★
★Steelers, 49ers: The 4-0 Club★
★Tampa Bay Pictorial★
★Memories in Roman Numerals★

SPOTLIGHT XXV

Best of the Best

Presenting the Silver Anniversary All-Time Super Bowl Team

By Ray Didinger

The late Andy Warhol once said that everyone on the planet—you, me, your brother-in-law, everybody—would be famous for 15 minutes. It was Warhol's theory that fate moved the grand spotlight around in such a way that it fell on all of us at one time or another. Fleeting attention, but attention nonetheless.

We've seen evidence of this in sports. Buster Douglas wins the heavyweight championship. Don Larsen pitches a perfect game in the World Series. Mike Eruzione scores the goal that has us all believing in miracles at the 1980 Winter Olympics.

Those are the kinds of deeds Andy Warhol had in mind. Common men performing uncommonly.

The Super Bowl hasn't been like that. For the most part, the National Football League's showcase event has been dominated by its greatest coaches and players.

There have been a few surprises over the years, but not many.

This was reflected in the fan voting for the Silver Anniversary Super Bowl All-Time Team, sponsored by Buick as part of the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration. Twenty-seven men were selected...and each was the real thing.

Lombardi. Montana. Csonka. Upshaw. Greene. Lambert. And so on. It is a team of genuine legends.

Malcolm Emmons

"Vince [Lombardi] was like a man possessed. He really felt that if we lost, a lot of what we had accomplished would be tarnished. We weren't about to let that happen."

This, too, was reflected in the balloting—12 team members already are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have the largest representation on the team, nine players. The long shot was Donnie Shell, a free agent who began as a special teams player and later started three Super Bowls for the Steelers. Shell finished first in fan balloting at safety.

"They say the test of greatness is the test of time," Shell says, "and I think this [vote] proves we had a truly great team in Pittsburgh. I never considered myself a star, but I think the level at which we played—the level that was demanded—made you a star.

"In the seventies, the Steelers were the team and the Super Bowl was the game. We were meant for each other. Winning just came naturally."

It is only fitting that the man whose name appears on the Super Bowl trophy, Vince Lombardi, would be the fans' choice as head coach of the Silver Anniversary Super Bowl Team. It was Lombardi who first defined the AFL-NFL Championship Game as some-

thing special. Back in 1967, the rest of us weren't so sure. The inaugural game didn't come close to selling out the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Press requests were a small fraction of what they are today.

We didn't know quite what to make of the event.

Was it a genuine championship game or just a glorified exhibition between two rival leagues?

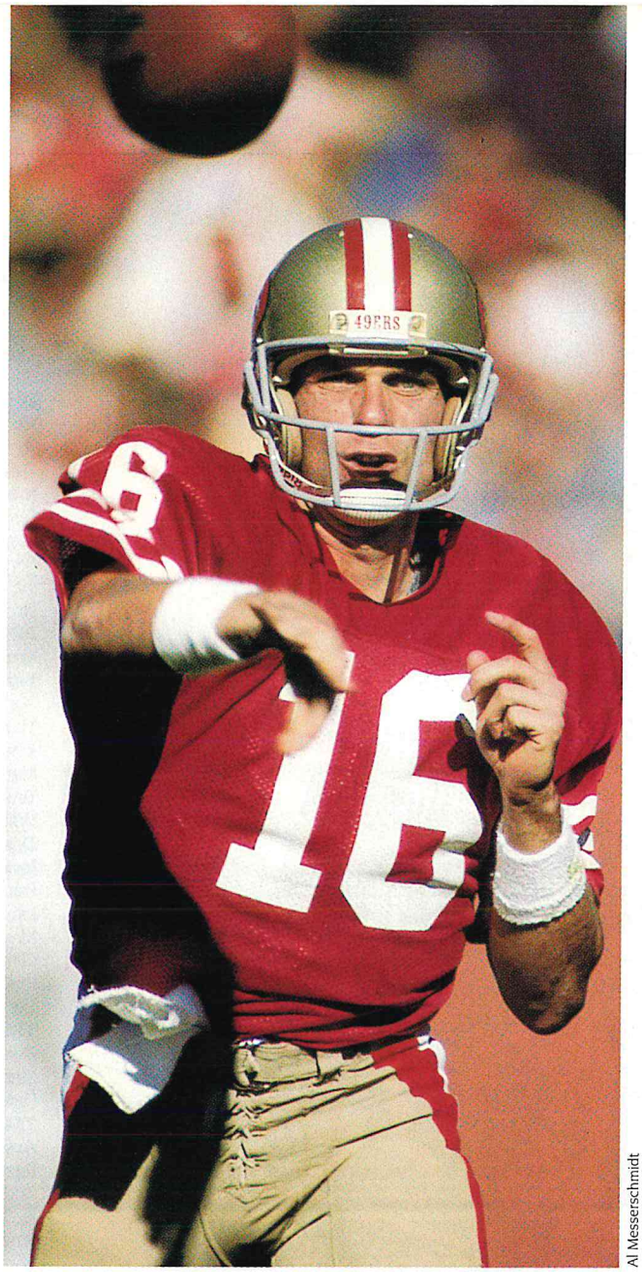
Who were the Kansas City Chiefs, anyway?

One glimpse of Lombardi's face that week told us all we needed to know. This was the real thing. We focused our attention accordingly. So did Lombardi's players, who pounded the Chiefs 35-10 in Super Bowl I (followed, a year later, by a 33-14 victory over the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl II).

"Vince was really hooked on this thing about carrying the banner for the NFL," says Bob Skoronski, an offensive tackle for the Packers of the 1960s. "He would read us letters and telegrams from NFL people—men like [Chicago Bears owner] George Halas and [New York Giants owner] Wellington Mara—who all said basically the same thing: 'Go out there and show those [AFL] guys who's boss.'

"Vince was like a man possessed. He really felt that if we lost, a lot of what we had accomplished [four NFL titles before Super Bowl I] would be tarnished. We weren't about to let that happen. Most of all, we didn't want to let him down."

The Packers dedicated their second Super Bowl to Lombardi, who reportedly would retire as head coach. As the final seconds ticked away, guard Jerry Kramer and tackle Forrest Gregg hoisted Lombardi to their shoulders.



Al Messerschmidt

"Some guys get tighter the bigger the game is, but Joe [Montana] just seems to get better. If every game were a Super Bowl, Joe would be undefeated."

"One more time, coach," Kramer said.

Lombardi smiled. "This is the best way to leave a football field," he said.

Lombardi brought fire to the Super Bowl. San Francisco quarterback Joe Montana brought ice. Four times Montana led the 49ers into the big game, four times he came away with a victory. No single player has dominated the Super Bowl stage quite like Montana has.

That was reflected in the fan balloting for the team: Montana received more votes than Terry Bradshaw, Roger Staubach, Joe Namath, and Bart Starr *combined*.

Montana's grace under pressure is unmatched among his peers. In four Super Bowls, Montana has completed 83 of 122 passes (68 percent) for 1,142 yards and 11 touchdowns. He has not thrown an interception and, as far as we can tell, never has broken a sweat.

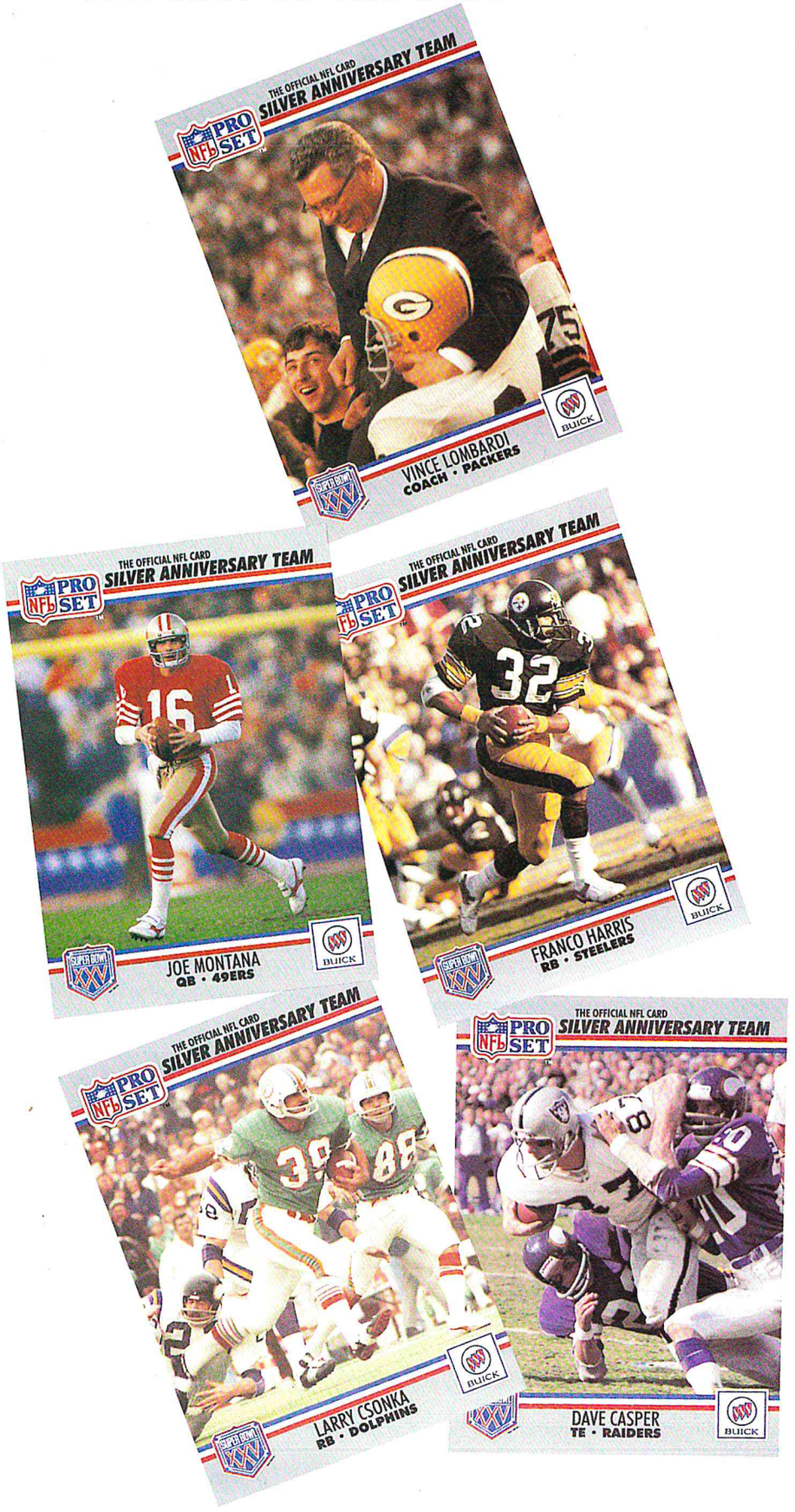
"Some guys get tighter the bigger the game is, but Joe just seems to get better," says former 49ers lineman Randy Cross. "If every game were a Super Bowl, Joe would be undefeated."

Montana was voted most valuable player in three different Super Bowls, yet he is best remembered for his performance in Super Bowl XXIII, the one game in which he wasn't singled out for the individual honor.

That was the game in which Montana brought the 49ers back in the closing minutes, driving them 92 yards in 11 plays to score the deciding touchdown in a 20-16 triumph over the Cincinnati Bengals. Montana completed 8 of 9 passes on the drive, the last one a 10-yard collaboration with wide receiver John Taylor in the end zone.

It was the fifteenth time in Montana's career that he had brought the 49ers from behind to win in the fourth quarter, so it didn't come as any surprise to his teammates. The game merely underscored what they already knew—come crunch time, Montana is State of the Art.

(*Continued on page* 110)



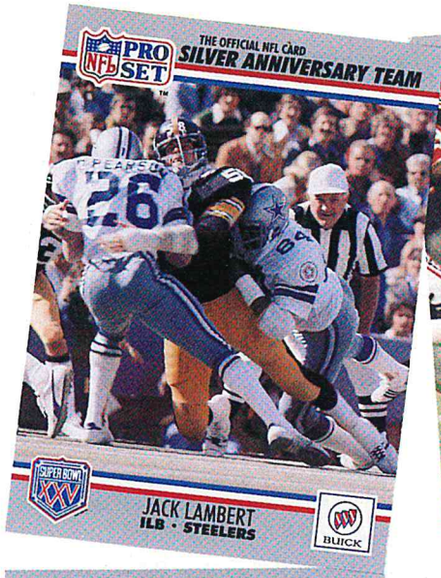
OFFENSE
(Final Voting)

	TOTAL	PCT. OF VOTES
HEAD COACH		
Vince Lombardi	**397,923**	**35.7**
Bill Walsh	208,708	18.7
Tom Landry	185,522	16.7
Chuck Noll	151,435	13.6
Don Shula	123,442	11.1
Joe Gibbs	23,725	2.1
Tom Flores	22,844	2.1
QUARTERBACK		
Joe Montana	**747,801**	**67.5**
Terry Bradshaw	134,584	12.1
Roger Staubach	111,475	10.1
Bart Starr	52,235	4.7
Joe Namath	50,080	4.5
Jim Plunkett	12,248	1.1
RUNNING BACKS		
Franco Harris	**620,931**	**29.2**
Larry Csonka	**518,690**	**24.4**
Roger Craig	345,220	16.2
Marcus Allen	292,326	13.8
John Riggins	276,265	13.0
Matt Snell	38,338	1.8
Timmy Smith	34,638	1.6
WIDE RECEIVERS		
Lynn Swann	**775,447**	**36.6**
Jerry Rice	**622,849**	**29.4**
Fred Biletnikoff	328,613	15.5
John Stallworth	168,365	7.9
Max McGee	75,775	3.6
Cliff Branch	65,353	3.1
Ricky Sanders	58,308	2.7
George Sauer	25,049	1.2
TIGHT END		
Dave Casper	**712,096**	**66.2**
Marv Fleming	241,904	22.4
Dan Ross	122,763	11.4
TACKLES		
Art Shell	**686,645**	**32.5**
Forrest Gregg	**447,473**	**21.2**
Anthony Muñoz	374,373	17.7
Joe Jacoby	300,417	14.2
Rayfield Wright	129,041	6.1
Ron Yary	121,180	5.7
Winston Hill	54,161	2.6
GUARDS		
Gene Upshaw	**612,571**	**29.3**
Jerry Kramer	**424,104**	**20.3**
Randy Cross	374,383	17.9
Bob Kuechenberg	283,654	13.5
Larry Little	236,886	11.3
John Niland	85,431	4.1
Gerry Mullins	76,038	3.6
CENTER		
Mike Webster	**641,163**	**59.9**
Dwight Stephenson	168,285	15.7
Dave Dalby	146,283	13.7
Jim Langer	114,639	10.7
KICKER		
Jan Stenerud	**422,654**	**43.2**
Ray Wersching	191,644	19.6
Kevin Butler	161,938	16.5
Don Chandler	116,785	11.9
Jim Turner	86,551	8.8
KICK RETURNER		
John Taylor	**349,826**	**32.3**
Fulton Walker	269,716	24.9
Larry Anderson	238,745	22.0
Stanford Jennings	114,946	10.6
Mike Nelms	109,939	10.2

THE OFFICIAL NFL CARD
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
PRO SET
LYNN SWANN
WR • STEELERS
JERRY RICE
WR • 49ERS
DONNIE SHELL
S • STEELERS
FORREST GREGG
T • PACKERS
GENE UPSHAW
G • RAIDERS
JERRY KRAMER
G • PACKERS
MIKE WEBSTER
C • STEELERS
JAN STENERUD
K • CHIEFS
JOHN TAYLOR
KR • 49ERS
BUICK
SUPER BOWL XXV

DEFENSE
(Final Voting)

	TOTAL	PCT. OF VOTES
DEFENSIVE ENDS		
L.C. Greenwood	**590,672**	**26.5**
Ed (Too Tall) Jones	**499,279**	**22.4**
Richard Dent	478,756	21.5
Willie Davis	264,926	11.9
Harvey Martin	208,664	9.3
Dwight White	126,803	5.7
Ross Browner	60,756	2.7
DEFENSIVE TACKLES		
Joe Greene	**813,591**	**37.5**
Randy White	**402,707**	**18.5**
Alan Page	345,088	15.9
Bob Lilly	344,308	15.9
Buck Buchanan	126,440	5.8
Manny Fernandez	88,566	4.1
Curley Culp	50,266	2.3
INSIDE LINEBACKERS		
Jack Lambert	**672,149**	**30.9**
Mike Singletary	**526,410**	**24.2**
Ray Nitschke	438,179	20.1
Nick Buoniconti	242,299	11.1
Lee Roy Jordan	171,828	7.9
Willie Lanier	126,563	5.8
OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS		
Jack Ham	**764,904**	**36.4**
Ted Hendricks	**599,836**	**28.5**
Carl Banks	320,706	15.3
Chuck Howley	203,171	9.7
Charles Haley	127,036	6.0
Rod Martin	85,840	4.1
CORNERBACKS		
Ronnie Lott	**697,335**	**34.6**
Mel Blount	**383,752**	**19.0**
Herb Adderley	240,386	11.9
Lester Hayes	214,947	10.7
Mel Renfro	192,683	9.6
Willie Brown	125,859	6.2
Mike Haynes	92,915	4.6
Eric Wright	68,869	3.4
SAFETIES		
Donnie Shell	**524,180**	**24.8**
Willie Wood	**369,468**	**17.4**
Cliff Harris	324,148	15.3
Jake Scott	289,407	13.7
Dick Anderson	221,396	10.4
David Fulcher	178,225	8.4
Mike Wagner	115,685	5.6
Johnny Robinson	94,083	4.4
PUNTER		
Ray Guy	**858,825**	**79.2**
Lee Johnson	75,706	7.0
Larry Seiple	74,990	6.9
Jerrel Wilson	74,383	6.9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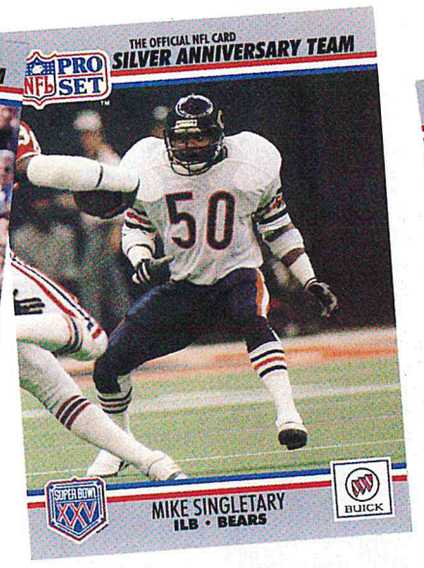
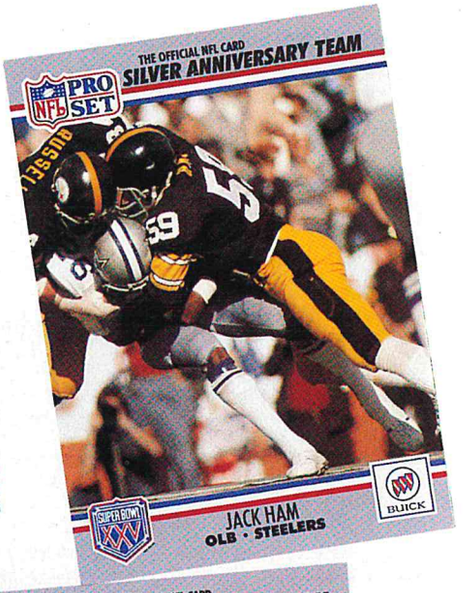
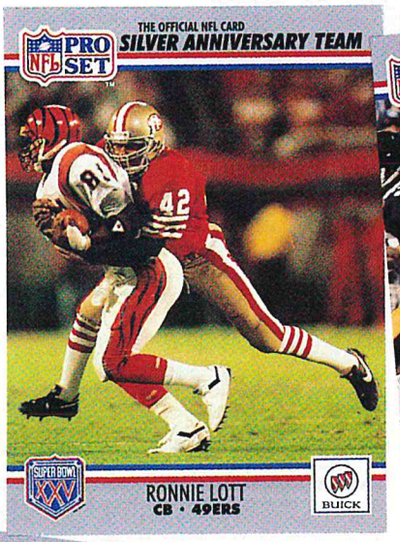
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
JACK LAMBERT
ILB • STEELERS
BUICK


THE OFFICIAL NFL CARD
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
MIKE SINGLETARY
ILB • BEARS
BUICK


THE OFFICIAL NFL CARD
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
JACK HAM
OLB • STEELERS
BUICK

THE OFFICIAL NFL CARD
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
TED HENDRICKS
OLB • COLTS/RAIDERS
BUICK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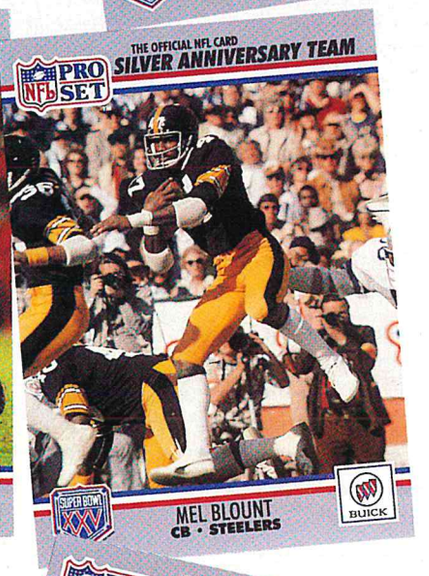
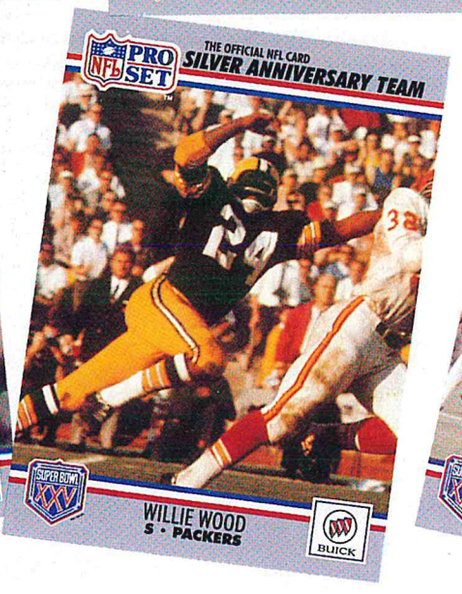
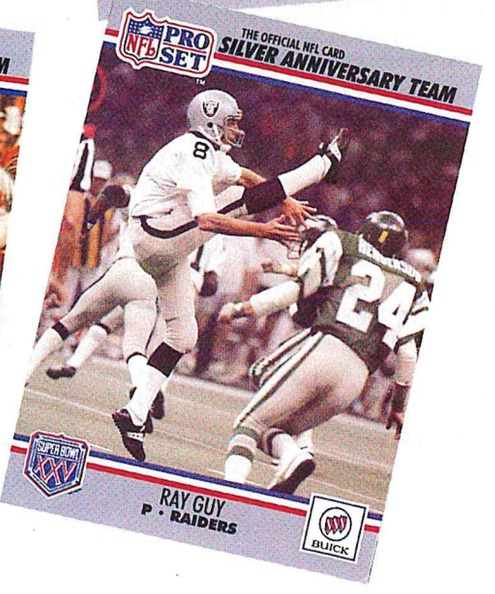
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
RONNIE LOTT
CB • 49ERS
BUICK


THE OFFICIAL NFL CARD
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
MEL BLOUNT
CB • STEELERS
BUICK

THE OFFICIAL NFL CARD
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
ART SHELL
T • RAIDERS
BUICK


THE OFFICIAL NFL CARD
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
WILLIE WOOD
S • PACKERS
BUICK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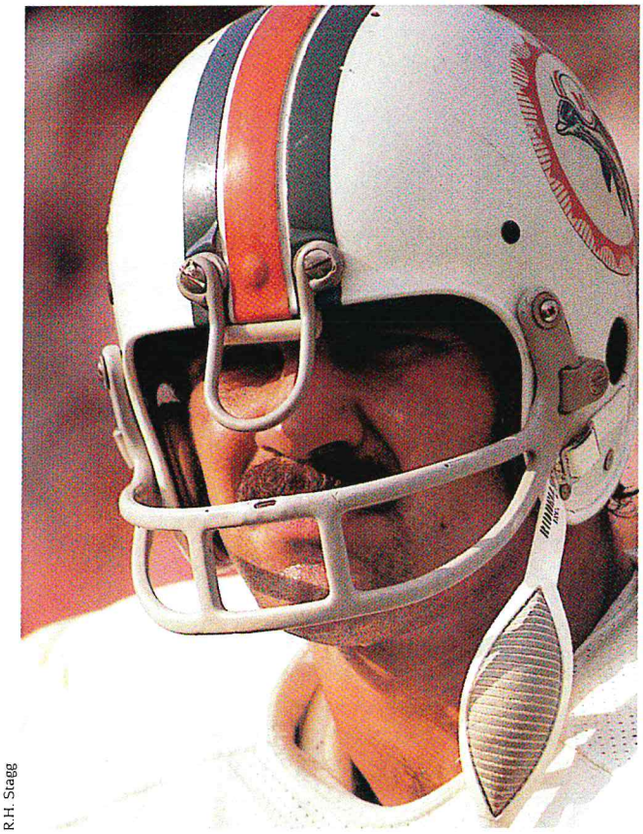
SILVER ANNIVERSARY TEAM
RAY GUY
P • RAIDERS
BUICK



R.H. Stagg

"The main image I carry of Zonk [Larry Csonka] was him staggering back to the huddle, bleeding like a stuck pig, and still growling."

(*Continued from page* 105)

"I remember waiting to start that [final] series, feeling very uptight," said Harris Barton, the 49ers' right tackle. "Joe came over and said, 'Hey, Harris. Check it out.' I didn't know what he was talking about.

"Then he pointed into the stands and said, 'Look, there's [actor] John Candy.' I looked and, sure enough, he was. We both laughed, then the referee blew his whistle and Joe said, 'Okay, guys. Let's go.' He was totally cool, totally in command.

"That's Joe."

Like Montana, the all-time running backs were obvious choices.

Pittsburgh's Franco Harris and Miami's Larry Csonka are the game's two top rushers. Harris had 354 yards in four appearances, Csonka 297 yards in three games.

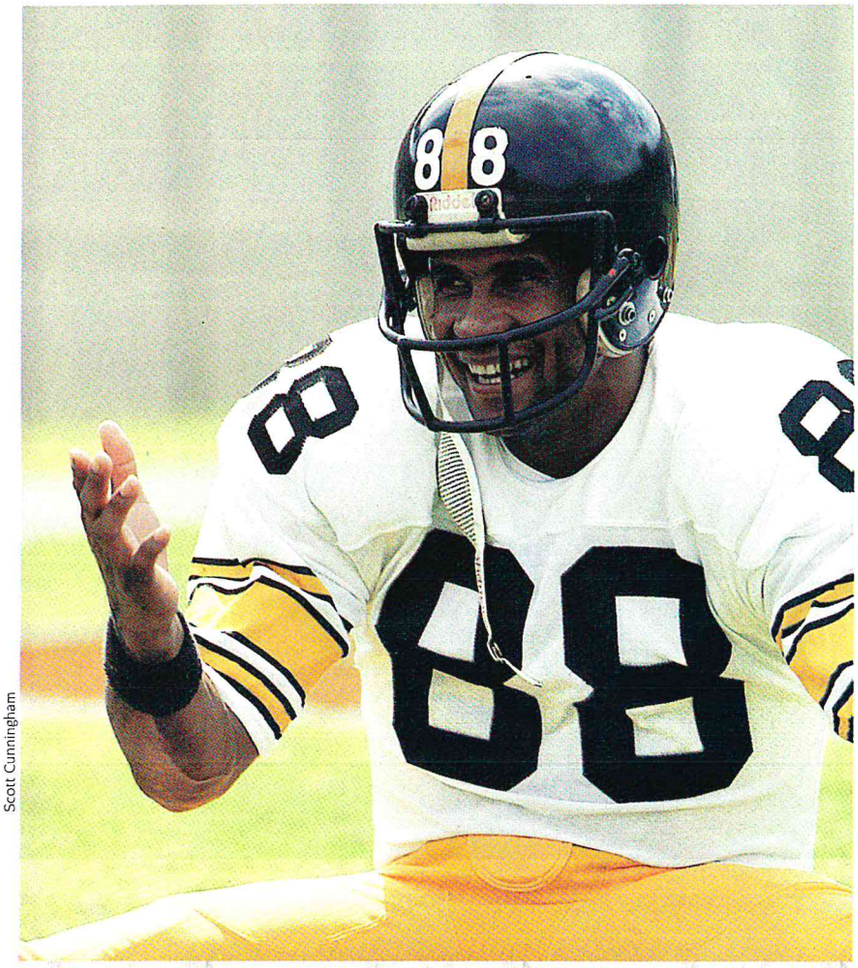
Harris and Csonka both were listed as fullbacks, but they had very different running styles.

Csonka was a bruising throwback to the stone age of professional football. At 6 feet 3 inches and 235 pounds, he was the classic power runner, plowing straight ahead with his helmet and shoulder lowered, always moving the pile upfield.

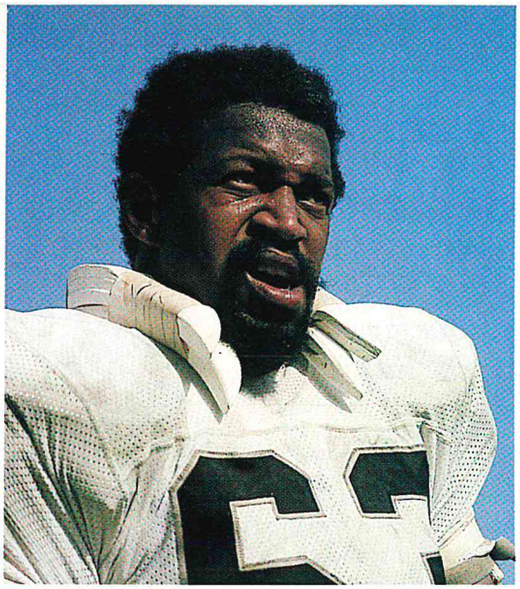
Harris was a glider, sliding along the line of scrimmage until he found a crack, then shifting into overdrive. At 6-2 and 225 pounds, Harris had the body of a fullback but the game-breaking speed of a halfback. It was a rare and formidable combination, and it paid big dividends.

The Steelers never had a losing season in Harris's 12 years with the team. In his 19 postseason games, Franco was

Lynn Swann: "I dropped four passes in my final college game [with USC] and that was the Rose Bowl. I vowed I'd never let that happen again, and I didn't."



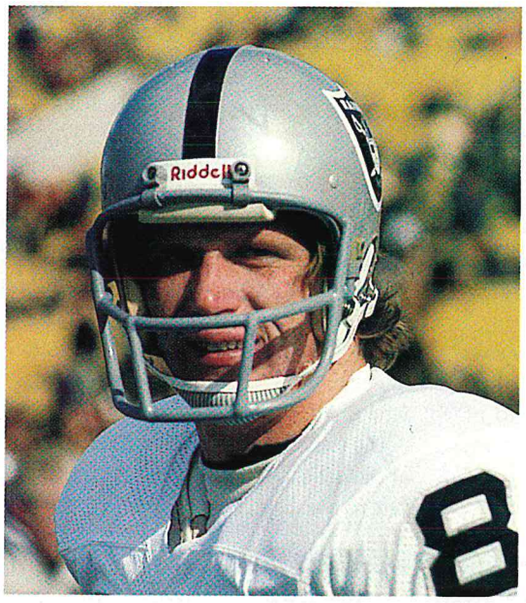
Scott Cunningham



James Flores

the leading rusher 13 times. He was the difference in Super Bowl IX, rolling up 158 yards on 34 carries as Pittsburgh defeated Minnesota 16-6 to claim its first NFL championship.

"Franco was the guy who really lifted the Steelers to a new plateau, a level of confidence that made us believe we could win," says the Steelers' Joe Greene, a defensive tackle on the all-time team and now an assistant coach with the Steelers. "With Franco, we went into every game knowing that we could run the ball. We never had that before."



Malcolm Emmons

Stabler once called Dave Casper "the worst-looking practice player I've ever seen," but the man nicknamed "Ghost" was superb on game day.

Similarly, Csonka was a constant for the Miami team that made three consecutive Super Bowl appearances from 1972-74. The Dolphins had other weapons, including the Hall of Fame passing combination of quarterback Bob Griese and wide receiver Paul Warfield, but their offense was built around ball control...and that meant the Zonk.

Gene Upshaw: "Art and I competed with our own right guard and right tackle because we wanted every play run our way."

Csonka rushed for 112 yards in Miami's 14-7 victory over Washington in Super Bowl VII, then pounded out 145 yards in a 24-7 rout of Minnesota in Super Bowl VIII. Griese threw a total of 18 passes in the two games.

"Larry was the most inspirational teammate I ever had," says Bob Kuechenberg, the former Miami guard. "He was the best I ever saw at turning two yards into four yards, or four yards into six. What a factor that was!

"The main image I carry of Zonk was him staggering back to the huddle, bleeding like a stuck pig, and still growling. To see a skill player doing the same thing we [linemen] did made us play like hell. We had a standing bet which side of Zonk's face his nose would be on at the end of the game."

Wide receivers Lynn Swann of Pittsburgh and Jerry Rice of San Francisco left their marks on the Super Bowl in a more genteel fashion.

Swann brought a soaring grace to the game that prompted comparisons to Baryshnikov and Peter Pan. It was Swann who made a leaping, juggling 53-yard catch against Dallas in Super Bowl X that defied both gravity and belief. Swann caught 4 passes for 161 yards that day, including a 64-yard touchdown, and became the first receiver ever voted the game's most valuable player.

"To borrow a line from Whitney Houston, that was my one moment in time," says Swann, now a sportscaster for ABC-TV. "I have a Leroy Neiman original [painting] of the big catch. I still look at it sometimes and think, 'Wow, I really did that.'

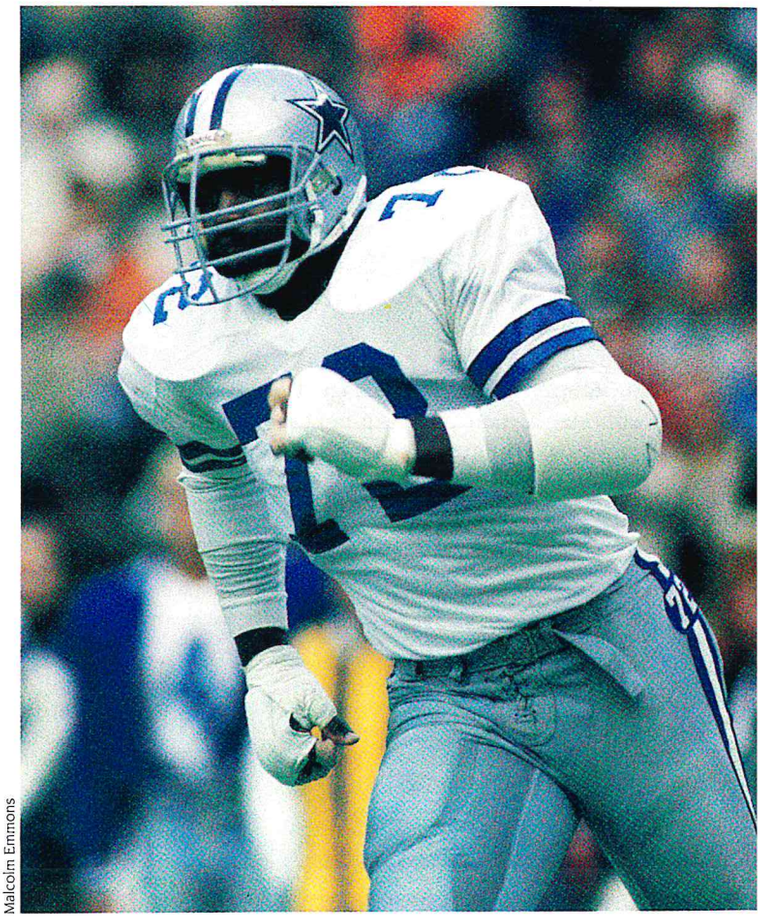
"There was a good deal of luck involved, actually. I went up and tipped the ball, then [Dallas cornerback] Mark Washington tipped it and we both fell to the ground. I just kept my focus on the ball and pulled it in.

"I remember it as one continuous flow. I don't remember thinking, 'I've got it. Ooops, no, I don't. Wait, yes, I do.' It was more like a Robin Williams improvisational routine where all the different elements just flow together. That's how it felt."

Swann had another big game against Dallas in Super Bowl XIII, catching 7 passes for 124 yards, including an 18-yard touchdown. He also scored on a 47-yard touchdown reception against Los Angeles in Super Bowl XIV. Swann rose to the occasion each time because he knew how he would feel if he didn't.

"I dropped four passes in my final college game [with USC] and that was the Rose Bowl," Swann says. "I couldn't live with myself afterwards. I vowed I'd never let that happen in a big game again, and I didn't."

Rice wasn't as acrobatic as Swann, but he was even more productive in his two Super Bowls. He had 11 catches for 215 yards in the 49ers' comeback win over Cincinnati, beating out Montana



Malcolm Emmons

"Ed [Jones] was one of those 'raw' brothers. He was from the backwoods of Tennessee. He didn't want any ointment, any tape. He only wore shoes because it was the league rule."

for MVP honors. Last January, Rice set a Super Bowl record with 3 touchdown receptions as San Francisco blitzed Denver 55-10.

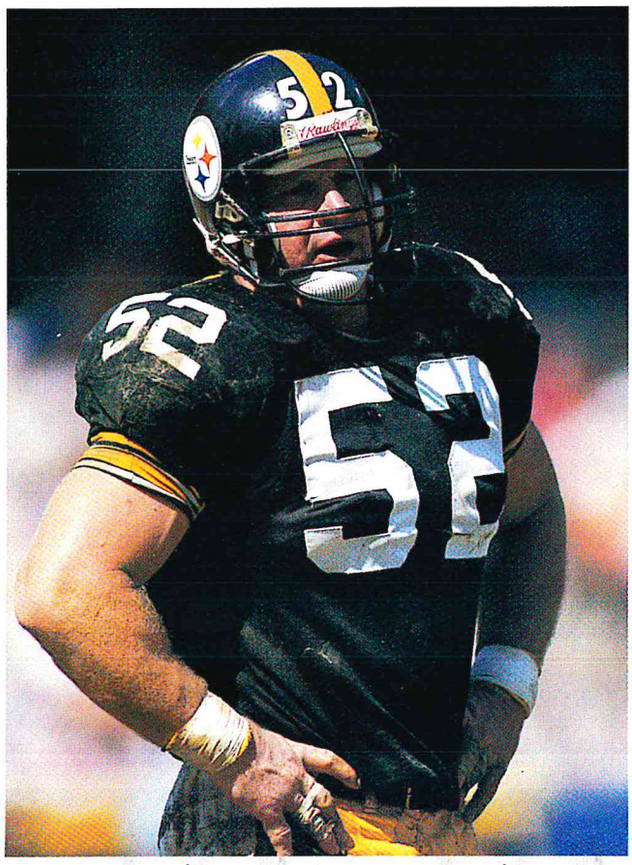
Both Swann and Rice proved their toughness in the big game, shrugging off attempts by opposing defensive backs to intimidate them with a lot of talk. Dallas safety Cliff Harris was Swann's chief antagonist. And last year, Denver safety Steve Atwater, a 6-3, 220-pounder, said his game plan was to punish Rice every time he came across the middle.

"I've been watching the films," Atwater said, "and no one has really hit the guy. Teams have been letting him run free. We're gonna make him pay."

As it turned out, Rice made Atwater and the Broncos pay, much the way Swann made Harris and the Cowboys pay a decade earlier. Rice scored the first of his 3 touchdowns by bouncing off Atwater and racing 8 yards to the end zone to complete a 20-yard scoring play.

So much for intimidation.

"They played just the way they said they would," Rice said. "They wanted to be very physical with us and at times they were overly aggressive. They got caught out of position and we were able to make some big plays.



John Biever

"Every offensive lineman wants to grow up to be like Mike Webster. But when God made him, He used a different kind of material."

[Atwater] hit me a few times, but I've been hit before. That's just part of the game."

"You're not gonna scare Jerry Rice with talk or anything else," said 49ers halfback Roger Craig. "He has more guts than any receiver in the league. I've seen him play with all kinds of pain."

The Oakland Raiders account for one whole side of the all-time Super Bowl offensive line with tight end Dave Casper, tackle Art Shell, and guard Gene Upshaw. Each player was the top vote-getter at his position by a considerable margin.

That's hardly surprising given the show the three Raiders put on against Minnesota in Super Bowl XI. Oakland ran the ball 52 times for 266 yards that day, with Shell and Upshaw clearing the way. Casper also blocked and caught 4 passes for 70 yards and a touchdown as the Raiders won easily 32-14. It was total domination at the line of scrimmage with the 6-5, 285-pound Shell overpowering Minnesota's 6-3, 230-pound Jim Marshall, and the 6-5, 260-pound Upshaw blocking down on 6-4, 230-pound Alan Page. Halfback

Clarence Davis ran off that left side for gains of 20, 35, 13, 18, and 16 yards. Davis finished with a career-high 137 yards on just 16 carries.

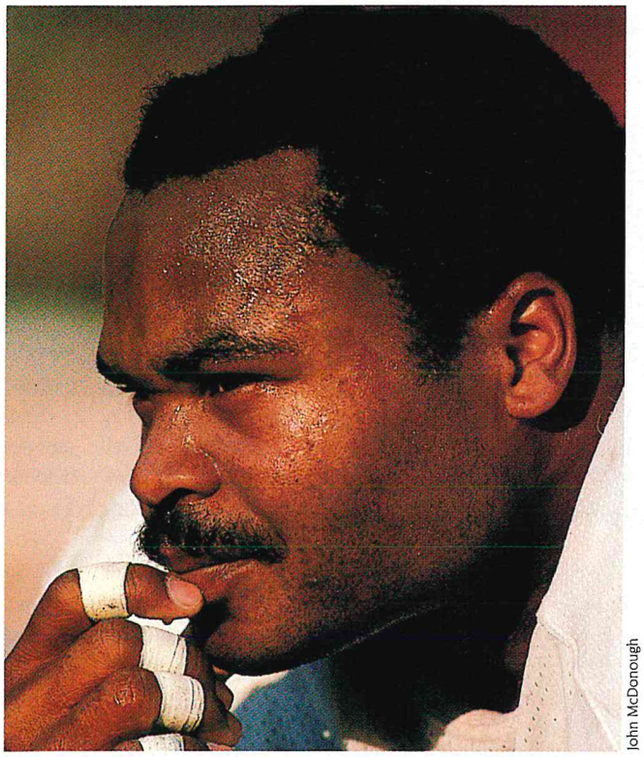
"We went into the game knowing we could control their front four," said Upshaw, the only man to play in a Super Bowl in three different decades (II, XI, and XV). "We knew we could beat them down and we also knew their defensive backs weren't too anxious to hit anybody, so once we got [Davis] around the corner, he was going to have a lot of room.

"Art and I talked about it and we wanted to establish ourselves right from the first series. We knew Snake [quarterback Ken Stabler] would keep calling our number as long as we were doing the job. See, Art and I didn't compete with the rest of the league, we competed with our own right guard and right tackle because we wanted every play run *our* way."

The Raiders went left on 27 of 33 running plays in the first half alone. Shell didn't simply block Marshall, he practically erased him. The veteran defensive end finished the day with no tackles, no assists, no sacks, no nothing. Upshaw took Page, an all-pro, out of the game in similar fashion.

Shell and Upshaw probably should have shared the most-valuable-player award that day, but they were overlooked, as offensive linemen often are. Instead, the honor went to wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff, who caught 4 passes for a modest 79 yards.

"I feel we [he and Shell] were cheated out of what we deserved, but that's the way it goes," Upshaw says. "We didn't say much about it because we were just happy to win a Super Bowl. We were really tired of being everybody's bridesmaid.



John McDonough

"Mike [Singletary] is the glue that holds this defense together," said Chicago linebacker Otis Wilson.

"Art and I played together for so long, we looked at ourselves as one guy. Art was the left hand, I was the right hand. We worked together. Each of us knew what the other guy was gonna do. That day [Super Bowl XI] nobody was gonna beat us. I mean, nobody."

Casper complemented Shell and Upshaw with both his blocking and catching. Stabler once called Casper "the worst-looking practice player I've ever seen," but the man the Raiders nicknamed "Ghost" was a superb performer on game day.

Casper was slick, and, like Shell and Upshaw, he seldom made a mistake. He scored the first touchdown in Super Bowl XI, sliding off a block near the goal line, then leaping to catch Stabler's feathery pass on his fingertips.

The right side of the Silver Anniversary Super Bowl All-Time line is another matched set, this one from Green Bay—Kramer at guard, Gregg at tackle. Both players bore the stamp of Lombardi. They were tough, disciplined, and intelligent.

Lombardi once called Gregg "the finest player I've ever coached," high praise considering 10 of Lombardi's Green Bay disciples (including Gregg) are in the Hall of Fame. Of Kramer, Lombardi once wrote: "Jerry has the perfect devil-may-care attitude it takes to play this game. He not only ignores the small hurts, but the large ones, too."

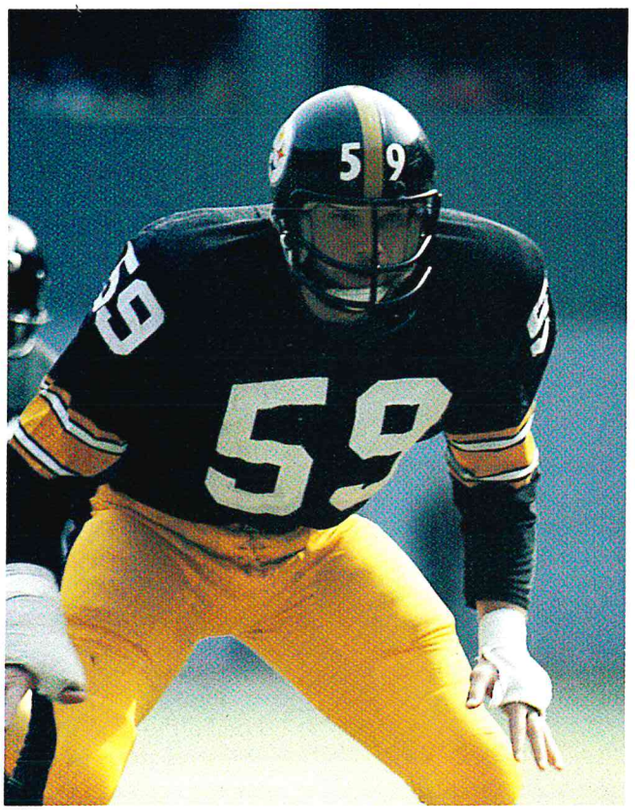
Lombardi liked nothing better than to break down game films and analyze why certain plays worked and other plays didn't. He checked every player, every assignment. Legend has it that Kramer once carried out a power sweep so beautifully—taking out two defenders and screening off a third—that Lombardi actually cheered when he saw it on tape.

If you know anything about Lombardi, you know how unusual that is. He was a hard man to please and an even harder man to excite. Kramer and Gregg were among the very few people who could do both. Like Shell and Upshaw, Kramer and Gregg worked together with instinctive precision.

Pittsburgh's Mike Webster is the center on the all-time team, another runaway winner in the fan balloting. The sight of Webster's bare, bulging arms settling over the football came to symbolize Steelers power in the 1970s.

Webster played both center and guard on Pittsburgh's first two championship teams, then settled into the center spot full time in 1976. He was voted into nine Pro Bowls and still was active this season, at age 38, with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Webster played in 177 consecutive



George Gojkovich

Jack Ham made a lot of big plays in his NFL career, but he didn't like it when people referred to him as a "big-play" guy. "I prefer to play consistent, error-free football."

games with the Steelers, setting the standard for excellence at his position for a generation. On a Pittsburgh team that was noted for its grit, Iron Mike was held in awe.

"Every offensive lineman wants to grow up to be like Mike Webster," said former Steelers tackle Craig Wolfley. "But when God made him, He used a different kind of material. There will never be another like him."

Virtually all discussions of Super Bowl defense begin with Pittsburgh's famed Steel Curtain. So did the voting for the Silver Anniversary Team. Of the 11 defensive players selected, six were Steelers. If that seems overwhelming, well, so were the Steelers with Joe Greene, Jack Lambert, and company.

"The funny thing is, I never thought about how great we were until it was all over," says Shell, the strong safety and now a youth counselor in Columbia, South Carolina. "We practiced together every day, we had fun together, we took a lot for granted. I looked at Joe, Jack, L.C. [Greenwood], and all as just teammates. You know, regular guys.

"It wasn't until years later, when they started going into the Hall of Fame and I looked back on what we accomplished that I realized, 'Hey, these were *special* people and that was a *special* team.' I'm just glad I had a little piece of it."

The cornerstone of the Pittsburgh defense was Greene, better known as Mean Joe, a 6-4, 270-pound tackle who was the first player drafted by head coach Chuck Noll when he took charge of the Steelers in 1969. Greene's fiery leadership helped turn around a sad-sack franchise that never had won a postseason game.

"Joe set the standard for us," Noll says. "Physically, he had all the necessary attributes, but he also set the standard for attitude."

Greenwood joined the Steelers in the same draft, a tenth-round pick out of Arkansas AM&N. At 6-6 and 230 pounds, Greenwood looked more like a basketball player than a defensive end, but his rangy quickness was a perfect complement to Greene's strength in the middle.

Greene would occupy two or three blockers and drive them into the backfield, collapsing the pocket. The quarterback then would be forced outside, where Greenwood, with his condor-like wingspan, allowed no room for escape.

That was where the Steel Curtain started—up front, with Greene and Greenwood. Cornerback Mel Blount arrived with the 1970 draft. Linebacker Jack Ham came aboard one year later. Lambert, the middle linebacker, and Shell completed the package in 1974.

Pittsburgh went on to win four Super Bowls in the next six years. That legacy is reflected here, with all those Steelers having earned places on the silver anniversary defense.

"As a defense, it clearly was the best I've ever seen," says Bill Walsh, who saw a lot of the Steel Curtain while serving as a Cincinnati assistant coach from 1968 through 1975.

"We were so good that we reached a level that was almost beyond confidence," says Greene. "Late in '74, going into the playoffs, we knew we weren't going to lose. We just *knew* it. We'd look at each other on the practice field and smile because we were all thinking the same thing."

The Steel Curtain smothered the Minnesota Vikings 16-6 in Super Bowl IX. The Vikings managed just 17 yards rushing that day. Greene manhandled Mick Tingelhoff, Minnesota's all-pro center, and forced a key fumble near the Pittsburgh goal line. Greenwood outfinessed another all-pro Viking, tackle Ron Yary, batting down three passes by Fran Tarkenton. L.C.'s trademark gold shoes were in the Vikings' backfield all day long.

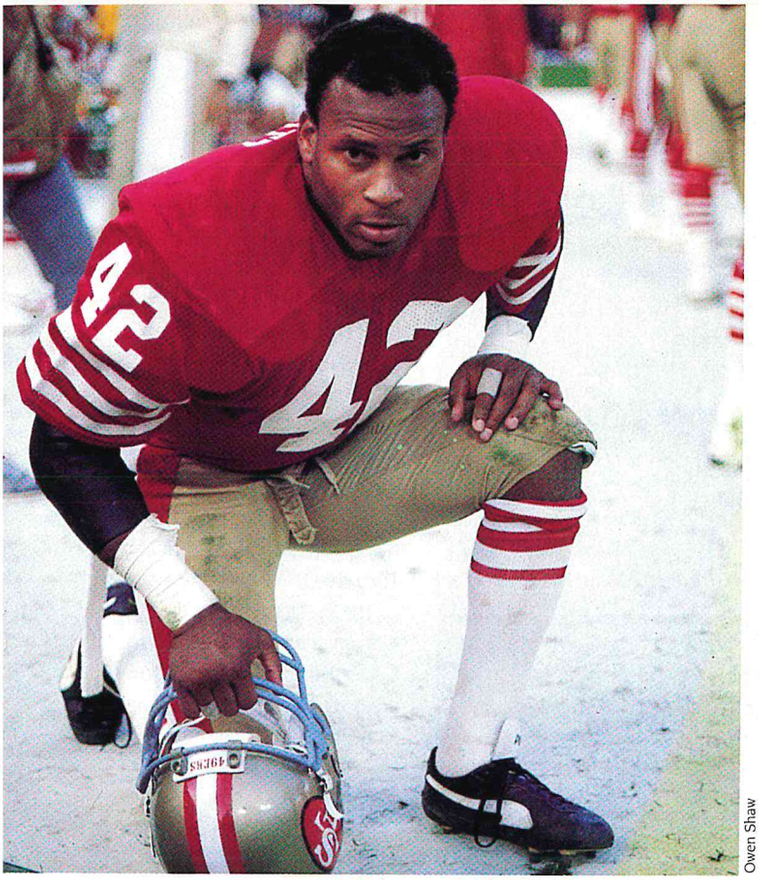
Ham was the left linebacker, patrolling the flat behind Greene and Greenwood. He wasn't particularly big (6-1, 220 pounds) but he was smart and rawhide tough.

Ham was one of the best in the game at reading a play and being in the right place at the right time.

Greene recalls a team once throwing a screen pass that completely fooled Pittsburgh's defense. Everyone was caught out of position except Ham, who saw the screen developing, split two blockers, and tackled the ball carrier for a loss.

Ham was a master technician, a thinking man's linebacker, solid rather than flashy. He made a lot of big plays in his NFL career, but he didn't like it when people referred to him as a "big-play" guy. "I prefer to play consistent, error-free football," Ham said.

Lambert, at middle linebacker, brought a new level of intensity to the Pittsburgh defense as a rookie starter in 1974. He played at such a furious pitch that he often sat in the



Owen Shaw

"This kid [Ronnie Lott] plays the inside routes as good as anyone since Herb Adderley," said Chicago head coach Mike Ditka. "He'll kill you if he hits you."

team sauna, in full uniform, for 30 minutes after a game to calm down before he met the press.

At 6-4 and 220 pounds, Lambert certainly wasn't the prototype middle linebacker. He was tall and lean, considerably lighter than the league average at his position. Yet he intimidated people, even his own teammates at times, with his sheer will.

"Jack demanded total effort from everybody in the organization," Steelers president Dan Rooney says. "He would tell everybody from me down to the ball boy when he thought something was wrong. He took us to greatness."

"Jack was the best middle linebacker I ever saw," said Andy Russell, the former Pittsburgh linebacker who started alongside Lambert in Super Bowls IX and X. "I watched film on all the great ones—[Ray] Nitschke, [Dick] Butkus, [Tommy] Nobis—and Jack was the best. He was equally good against the run as those guys, but he was dramatically better against the pass."

"Jack didn't have to psych himself up to play," Joe Greene said. "Jack *lived* to play."

Lambert often is credited with turning the momentum in two of the Steelers' four Super Bowl victories.

In Super Bowl X, Pittsburgh was trailing Dallas 10-7 in the third quarter when kicker Roy Gerela missed a field goal. Dallas safety Cliff Harris patted Gerela on the helmet as if to say, "Thanks, pal." Lambert rushed in, grabbed Harris around the neck, and threw him to the ground. "It wasn't something I thought about—it was a split-second thing," Lambert says. "But I couldn't permit anyone to intimidate our team."

Lambert's body slam of Harris seemed to ignite the Steelers, who came back to defeat the Cowboys 21-17.

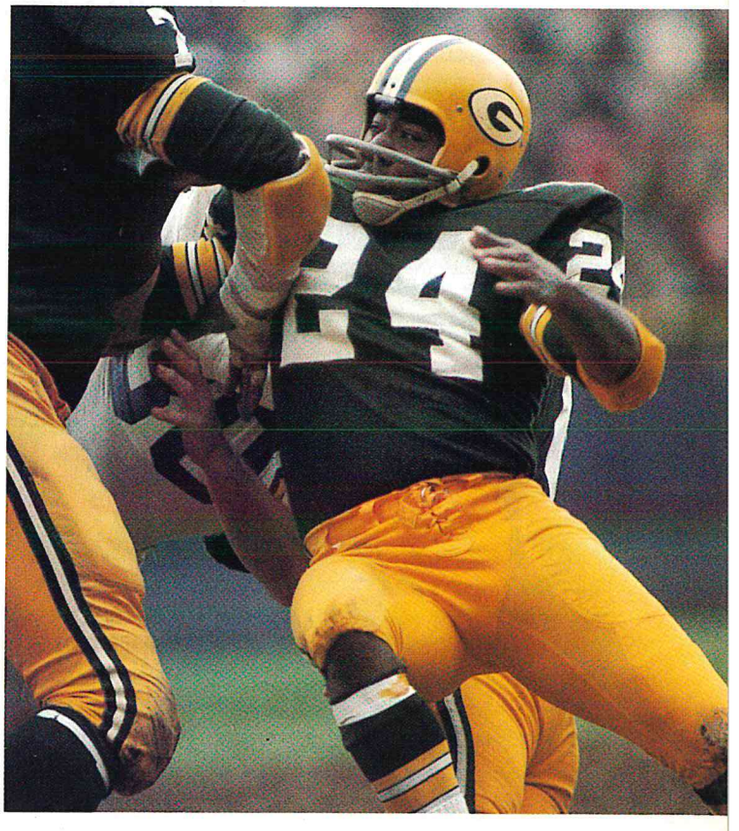
In Super Bowl XIV against Los Angeles, Lambert saved the game by intercepting a pass by Vince Ferragamo at his own 14-yard line late in the fourth quarter with the Steelers clinging to a 24-19 lead.

Earlier in the game, Lambert had knocked out Wendell Tyler, the Rams' best running back, with a jarring hit. Lambert finished with 14 tackles that day as Ham sat out the big game with a broken foot.

"The great thing that [defensive] group had was the ability to focus," Noll says. "Lambert was a leader in that respect, but they all had the ability to push aside the things that weren't important and focus on the task at hand. Really, that's what set them apart. They could overcome almost anything."

Of course, it helped to have athletes with the wondrous skills of a Mel Blount. At 6-3

Willie Wood's former youth league coach from Washington, D.C., wrote letters to every pro club. Only Lombardi cared enough to respond.



Vernon Biever

and 205 pounds, Blount was the ideal cornerback—swift, sleek, and strong.

"A lot of cornerbacks want to be intimidators," says Jon Kolb, the former Pittsburgh tackle. "They go through all kinds of things to be intimidating. Mel could just walk out there, look down on the guy and then run side-by-side with him. That was intimidating."

Blount made headlines—and incurred the wrath of Noll—with his assessment of Tarkenton prior to Super Bowl IX. Blount said there were "several" quarterbacks in the AFC who were better than Tarkenton. Naturally, Tarkenton fumed. Noll winced. Later, Blount explained he made that comment hoping the Minnesota quarterback would throw the ball his way in the title game. Sure enough, Blount intercepted a pass to kill a Vikings drive at the Pittsburgh goal line.

In Super Bowl XIII against Dallas, Blount intercepted a pass by Roger Staubach and set up the go-ahead touchdown in the Steelers' 35-31 victory. Blount was cocky and outspoken, but he also could back it up. When the rulesmakers severely limited the bump-and-run, his favorite technique, Blount simply adjusted. He finished his career with 57 interceptions, a Steelers' record.

"If the scales were balanced, there was nobody I couldn't cover," says Blount. "That's what motivated me, drove me to be as good as I was. I was in front of 50,000 people in the stands and millions on TV. I didn't want to be embarrassed."

Unlike Blount, Shell was not a blue-chip prospect when he came out of college. He had been a linebacker at South Carolina State, a small, predominantly black school. No NFL team drafted him. The Steelers signed him only after his college coach, Willie Jeffries, persuaded Pittsburgh scout Bill Nunn, an old friend, to give the kid a chance.

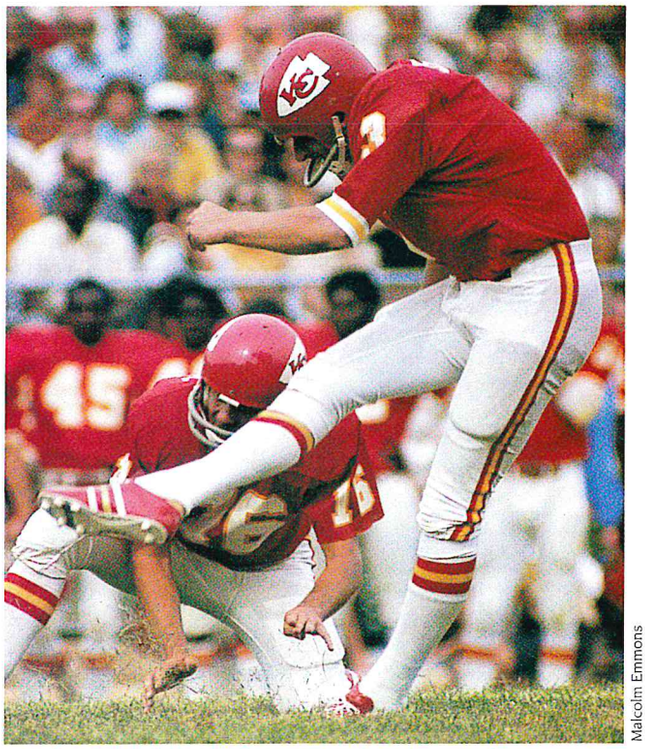
Shell was 5-11 and 190 pounds, which wasn't going to cut it at linebacker in the NFL. But Noll switched him to strong safety and Shell, after paying his dues on special teams, wound up starting in Pittsburgh's last two Super Bowls.

"Donnie's greatest talent was his heart," says Swann, who went against him every day in practice. "He didn't have much speed or skill, but he got one hundred percent out of everything he did have and that was more than enough."

"It was funny, but I was in the stands at Super Bowl VIII in Houston," Shell says. "I was there as part of a college all-star weekend and I remember being awed the whole time. I was watching Csonka and [Jim] Kiick run the ball for Miami and thinking, 'Wow, this is like a dream. This is the *big* time.' One year later, I was playing in the Super Bowl with the Steelers. It didn't seem as overwhelming then. Once the game began, it felt like any other game. I always played the same way—all out—so it didn't matter how many people were in the stands.

"People make a big deal that I was a free agent on a team of superstars, but, really, I knew I'd make the team after my first week in training camp. It was the same game, same fundamentals—blocking and tackling. I knew I could play, I just had to hope the coaches noticed." They did.

The Steelers weren't the only team ever to play defense in the Super Bowl, of course. Other great players rose to the challenge, too.



Malcolm Emmons

Of Jan Stenerud's 48-yard kick on Kansas City's first possession, coach Hank Stram said, "The Vikings were staring in disbelief. They couldn't believe we didn't punt."

Randy White and Ed (Too Tall) Jones of Dallas join Greene and Greenwood on the all-time front four. The two Cowboys were among the best at their positions for a decade, appearing in three Super Bowls (X, XII, and XIII).

White and Jones were similar types, both quiet and unassuming. Together, they formed the backbone of Tom Landry's Doomsday Defense.

White was a 6-4, 265-pound tackle blessed with enormous strength (he bench pressed 500 pounds) and desire. Teammate Charlie Waters nicknamed White "Manster"—as in half-man, half-monster. White didn't like the name, but it stuck, mostly because that's how he played for 14 seasons.

White's career zenith came in Super Bowl XII, when the Cowboys defeated Denver 27-10 and he shared most-valuable-player honors with defensive end Harvey Martin.

White had 5 tackles and 1 sack in the game, helping to pressure Broncos quarterback Craig Morton into 4 interceptions.

"Some people think the excitement of winning a Super Bowl is getting your picture splashed across magazine covers and making [TV] commercials," White said. "That's all irrelevant.

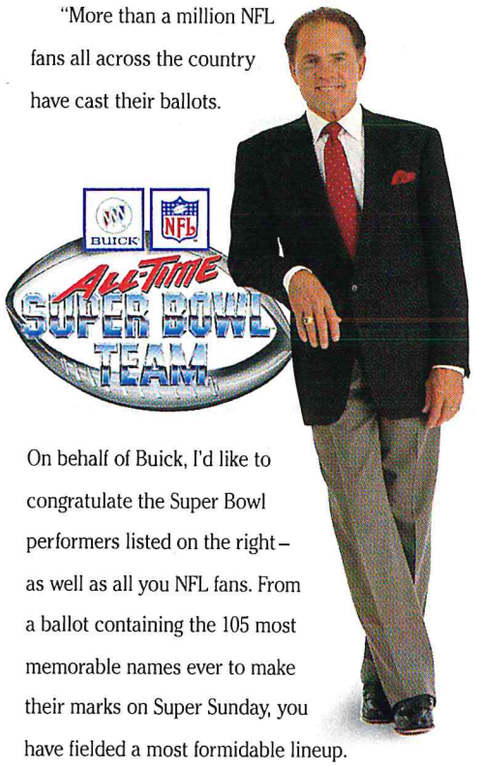
"As a player, the thrill is knowing you gave

Frank Gifford introduces your choices for

THE BUICK "ALL-TIME SUPER BOWL TEAM"

"When I called on America to assemble the greatest performers ever in the 25 years of the Super Bowl, position by position, it seemed like a great idea at the time. Now it seems even greater.

"More than a million NFL fans all across the country have cast their ballots.



On behalf of Buick, I'd like to congratulate the Super Bowl performers listed on the right – as well as all you NFL fans. From a ballot containing the 105 most memorable names ever to make their marks on Super Sunday, you have fielded a most formidable lineup.

"And now, to commemorate the Big Game's 25th Anniversary, here are your picks for Buick's 'All-Time Super Bowl Team' – the greatest team never assembled...until now!"

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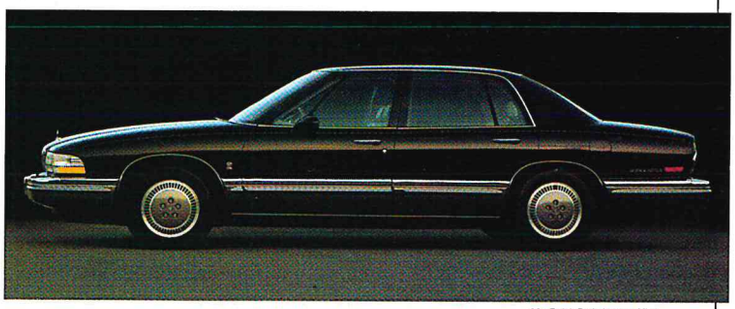

1991 Buick Park Avenue Ultra

Head Coach
Vince Lombardi
Packers
Super Bowl I, II

OFFENSE

Quarterback
Joe Montana
49ers
Super Bowl XVI, XIX, XXIII, XXIV

Running Back
Franco Harris
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

Running Back
Larry Csonka
Dolphins
Super Bowl VI, VII, VIII

Wide Receiver
Lynn Swann
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

Wide Receiver
Jerry Rice
49ers
Super Bowl XXIII, XXIV

Tight End
Dave Casper
Raiders
Super Bowl XI

Tackle
Forrest Gregg
Packers/Cowboys
Super Bowl I, II, VI

Tackle
Art Shell
Raiders
Super Bowl XI, XV

Guard
Jerry Kramer
Packers
Super Bowl I, II

Guard
Gene Upshaw
Raiders
Super Bowl II, XI, XV

Center
Mike Webster
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

DEFENSE

Defensive End
L.C. Greenwood
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

Defensive End
Ed Jones
Cowboys
Super Bowl X, XII, XIII

Defensive Tackle
Joe Greene
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

Defensive Tackle
Randy White
Cowboys
Super Bowl X, XII, XIII

Inside Linebacker
Jack Lambert
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

Inside Linebacker
Mike Singletary
Bears
Super Bowl XX

Outside Linebacker
Jack Ham
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

Outside Linebacker
Ted Hendricks
Colts/Raiders
Super Bowl V, XI, XV, XVIII

Cornerback
Mel Blount
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

Cornerback
Ronnie Lott
49ers
Super Bowl XVI, XIX, XXIII, XXIV

Safety
Donnie Shell
Steelers
Super Bowl IX, X, XIII, XIV

Safety
Willie Wood
Packers
Super Bowl I, II

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter
Ray Guy
Raiders
Super Bowl XI, XV, XVIII

Kicker
Jan Stenerud
Chiefs
Super Bowl IV

Kick Returner
John Taylor
49ers
Super Bowl XXIII, XXIV

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everything you had for six months and came out on top. That's not something you can put in a trophy case. You just carry it around in your heart."

Jones, like White, was an unpretentious star in the showy ensemble known as America's Team. He was 6-9 and 275 pounds, with amazing durability. Jones finally retired last June after playing in 224 regular-season games, a Cowboys' record.

"Ed was one of those 'raw' brothers," says former teammate Drew Pearson. "He was from the backwoods of Tennessee. He didn't want any ointment, any tape. I think he only wore shoes because it was the league rule. He was all football player."

Jones played left end, which meant he was primarily a run-stuffer, while Martin, the right end, was the pass rusher.

"Ed was more powerful," Martin says. "He withstood the brunt of the opposition because most teams are right-handed [on offense]. I was the guy with the flash, flying around the end. We competed with each other, week-to-week.

"Ed Jones made Harvey Martin. If I hadn't had Ed Jones to push me, I might never have come alive."

Chicago's Mike Singletary was the people's choice at inside linebacker, along with Lambert. Like Lambert, Singletary was a bit undersized (6-0, 230) but he emerged as the driving force behind one of the most dominating defenses of the 1980s.

The Super Bowl Bears of 1985 were like the old Steel Curtain in one respect. Where the Steelers unveiled a new look in defense, the stunt 4-3, the Bears had their own creation, the "46" as taught by defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan.

In essence, the "46" was an overshift with eight men tight to the line of scrimmage. As the middle linebacker, Singletary ran the show on the field, calling out formations, making adjustments, always stoking the emotional fires.

In their championship season, the Bears posted back-to-back playoff shutouts against the Giants and Rams, then crushed New England 46-10 in Super Bowl XX.

The Chicago defense had 7 sacks and 6 takeaways against the Patriots. New England rushed for just 7 yards on 11 carries.

Singletary was right in the middle of the wreckage, making 2 tackles, recovering 2 fumbles, and constantly prodding his teammates, refusing to let down even in the fourth quarter when the white flag was flying over the New England bench.

Donnie Shell: "They say the test of greatness is the test of time, and I think this [vote] proves we had a really great team in Pittsburgh."

"Mike is the glue that holds this defense together," said Chicago linebacker Otis Wilson.

Perhaps the best description of Singletary was the one offered by the player himself: "I'm a guy who's very determined in what he's doing. A guy who's gonna give you all he's got and when that's gone, try to give some more."

Outside linebacker Ted Hendricks took a more light-hearted approach to the game. The 6-7, 215-pound Hendricks, who was known as "The Mad Stork," clearly enjoyed going against the very disciplined grain of pro football.

Tales of Hendricks's escapades are legendary—riding onto the practice field on a white horse, wearing a suit of armor—but there was more to his career than whimsy. Hendricks started for four Super Bowl champions—the Baltimore Colts in 1971 and the Raiders in 1977, 1981, and 1984.

Hendricks was a curious sight at linebacker—Baltimore teammate Bill Curry once described him as "a series of toothpicks"—but he had an uncanny instinct for finding the football. He holds the NFL record for blocked kicks in a career (25) and he shares the league mark for safeties (4).

Hendricks was selected to three AFC Pro Bowl teams while with Baltimore, but he really flourished with the Raiders. Defensive coach Charlie Sumner allowed Hendricks much leeway—to free lance, to jump around the formation and blitz if he saw an opening.

That meant opposing teams could not devise a game plan to neutralize Hendricks because they never knew where he would line up from one play to the next.

The key was Hendricks's judgment. To make the defense work, he had to guess right, which he did most of the time.

"At least once a game, Ted will do something and I won't know how he did it," Sumner said. "Even when teams try to block him, he won't let them."

In Super Bowl XV, the Philadelphia Eagles did their best to avoid Hendricks, throwing every medium-distance pass to the opposite side of the field. The result was that Rod Martin, Oakland's other outside linebacker, made 3 interceptions, a Super Bowl record.

Hendricks also blocked a field-goal attempt by the Eagles' Tony Franklin just before halftime, silencing a Philadelphia rally.

San Francisco's Ronnie Lott was voted onto the all-time team at cornerback, but he also could have made it at safety. He has distinguished himself at both positions.

In Super Bowl XVI, Lott was one of three rookie starters in the 49ers' secondary, along with Carlton Williamson and Eric Wright. Teaming with veteran safety Dwight Hicks, the group was referred to as "Dwight Hicks and the Hot Licks."

Lott was the standout, a former safety at USC who was switched to cornerback by then 49ers assistant coach George Seifert. "I didn't like the idea at first," Lott says. "I thought, 'Oh, man, I'm gonna get killed out there.'"

But Lott had a great rookie year, intercepting 7 passes and returning 3 for touchdowns. At 6-0 and 200 pounds, Lott had the punishing strength of a safety and the coverage skills of a cornerback. He was a rarity, a gamebreaker on defense.

"This kid plays the inside routes as good as anyone since Herb Adderley," said Chicago head coach Mike Ditka. "He'll kill you if he hits you."

When the 49ers returned to the Super Bowl after the 1988 and 1989 seasons, Lott was in a new role. The secondary had been rebuilt and he was the veteran at free safety. "I'm the

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old Coke bottle in the Pepsi generation," Lott says. "I'm the old guy trying to keep everybody together."

Green Bay safety Willie Wood made the pivotal play in Super Bowl I, picking off a pass by Kansas City's Len Dawson and returning it 50 yards to set up a Packers touchdown early in the third quarter.

The surprising Chiefs had hung close to the NFL champions, trailing just 14-10 at halftime, but Wood's interception and Green Bay's subsequent touchdown pushed the lead to 21-10. Kansas City never was in the game after that.

Wood was just 5-10 and 190 pounds, a former quarterback and defensive back at USC who was ignored in the 1960 NFL draft. His former youth league coach from Washington, D.C., wrote letters to every pro club, urging them to give Wood a tryout. Only Vince Lombardi cared enough to respond.

Lombardi brought Wood to training camp as a free agent and tried him as a defensive back. He was a part-time player his rookie season, then replaced veteran Emlen Tunnell at free safety his second year. In 1962, Wood led the NFL with 9 interceptions.

"Wood set the style for the Packers' type of defense," says Raymond Berry, the Hall of Fame receiver who saw a lot of Wood during the Colts-Packers series of the 1960s. "Willie gave them the ability to call one defense and get many interpretations of it.

"He smelled a play and then took off, strictly on his own, and broke up plays he never should have been near."

Berry was right. Lombardi, a coach known for keeping his players on a short leash, gave Wood uncommon freedom in the secondary. Indeed, Wood was following his instincts when he picked off that Dawson pass in the Super Bowl.

"Willie is the most natural defensive back we have," Lombardi said. "He has the ability to make plays, so we let him."

Wood had another big game in Super Bowl II against Oakland, making 7 tackles, breaking up 2 passes, and returning a punt 31 yards.

Raiders punter Ray Guy was the most decisive winner in the fan balloting, receiving 79.2 percent of the votes at his position. That's not surprising. Guy probably is the best-known punter in NFL history. He is the only punter ever selected in the first round of the NFL draft. Al Davis raised a few eyebrows when he made the pick in 1973, but Davis knew what he was doing.

Guy played 14 seasons with the Raiders and never missed a game. He led the league in punting three times and was selected for seven Pro Bowls. He appeared in three Super Bowls (XI, XV, and XVIII) and outkicked his NFC opponent each time.

On a punt setup in Super Bowl XVIII, the center snapped the ball over Guy's head as Guy stood at his 45. The 6-3 Guy displayed his all-around athleticism by leaping high in the air and pulling the ball down with one hand, then hitting a 42-yard punt in the face of the Redskins' rush.

For the most part, the National Football League's showcase event has been dominated by its greatest coaches and players. There have been a few surprises, but not many.

"One of the big plays of the game," Raiders head coach Tom Flores said. "The snap was about fifteen feet in the air, but Ray went up and caught it with one hand, then punted it. And he did it so effortlessly."

Like Guy, Kansas City kicker Jan Stenerud was one of the most influential players ever at his position.

Stenerud, a former ski jumper from Norway, was the man who convinced NFL coaches that soccer-style kicking was not simply a fad. He was the most accurate kicker in the game for two decades, setting a league record for the highest field-goal percentage (91.6, since broken) in 1981 when he was 40 years old.

Stenerud helped set the tone for Kansas City's domination in Super Bowl IV against Minnesota. He kicked three field goals in the first half—from 48, 32, and 25 yards—to give the Chiefs a 9-0 lead on their way to a 23-7 victory.

Jerry Burns, then a Vikings assistant, now the head coach, recalls watching Stenerud in pregame warmups and being awed by his powerful leg. "He was kicking fifty yards and making them look routine," Burns says.

Of Stenerud's 48-yard kick (still a Super Bowl distance record) on Kansas City's first possession, head coach Hank Stram said, "The Vikings were staring in disbelief. They couldn't believe we didn't punt."

Even before the 49ers' John Taylor caught the winning touchdown pass in Super Bowl XXIII, he made his presence felt on special teams. He was so good, in fact, he was chosen for the Silver Anniversary Team as the kick return specialist.

Taylor's first Super Bowl didn't start off very well. He misjudged a punt off the left foot of Cincinnati's Lee Johnson. The ball sailed over Taylor's head and took a big bounce toward the 49ers' goal line.

Taylor scooped up the ball at his own 9, eluded two Bengals tacklers, and cut back across the field. He finally was pushed out of bounds after a 45-yard run, the longest punt return in Super Bowl history.

"Mess up and you have to make up," Taylor explained.

Taylor finished the game with an average of 18.7 yards on 3 punt returns, also a Super Bowl record.

Afterwards, Taylor, a private man who seldom speaks to the media, was escorted to the interview tent by an NFL official. He looked uncomfortable as he stepped onto the platform, but he understood this went with the territory known as Super Bowl.

"This is almost like a dream," Taylor said. "I'm not an emotional person, but winning a Super Bowl really means a lot to me. It's a special kind of feeling."

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SPOTLIGHT XXV

Invincible Packers

By Kevin Lamb

Green Bay played in Lombardi's image; a quarter-century later the players continue to live in it

The Packers knew it was a big game. They weren't sure how big. This game between the champions of the National Football League and the champions of the American Football League never had been played before. It hadn't even been named the Super Bowl, except informally. But from the way coach Vince Lombardi was acting, Packers players could tell the game against the Kansas City Chiefs on January 15, 1967, in the Los Angeles Coliseum must mean an awful lot.

"I never saw Lombardi as nervous as he was preparing for that game," middle linebacker Ray Nitschke says now. "It had to be the most concerned he'd ever been around us for one particular ball game. He didn't want us to fall on our face, and he didn't want us to look bad. I think he knew how important that game was."

Malcom Emmons

Lombardi believed the Packers should win. They were from the established league, after all. The AFL was in its seventh season. But he didn't want his team to take the Chiefs lightly. They were loaded with former college stars, from quarterback Len Dawson and halfback Mike Garrett on offense to tackle Buck Buchanan and linebacker Bobby Bell on defense. They were bigger than the Packers. "We were not accustomed to playing against 300-pounders," defensive end Lionel Aldridge says.

"He had us really tight," Nitschke says. "Normally in postseason games, we played it like it was a league game. We never did get as uptight as we were for the first Super Bowl game, and I guess it showed in our performance in the first half. We weren't as loose and we weren't as reckless and relaxed as we had been in previous championship games." The Packers held a mere 14-10 lead at halftime.

As Aldridge recalls, Kansas City was going through the same feeling-out process in the first half. But at halftime, Lombardi told the Packers "to loosen up and just go out and play football," Nitschke says. As always, the Packers listened. Early in the second half, safety Willie Wood set up a quick touchdown with a long interception return. "That was the point that as a team, I think we sensed blood," center Ken Bowman says. "We sensed it was about over and time to finish it." Green Bay pulled away to a 35-10 victory.

Quarterback Bart Starr was the game's MVP. He completed 16 of 23 passes for 250 yards and 2 touchdowns, going 6-for-7 on third downs. But 34-year-old wide receiver Max McGee was the hero. McGee always will be remembered as the guy who didn't bother sleeping Saturday night because he wasn't going to play anyway, then found himself thrust into action Sunday and ran the Chiefs to exhaustion with 7 catches and 2 touchdowns

"Vince would have liked to have won 80-0," McGee says. "That's how he felt about that other league, and he wanted to prove all those champi-

Manny Rubio

After nine seasons as Packers head coach and a few years in Phoenix, Starr has returned to his Alabama roots. He and son Bart, Jr., are Birmingham developers.

onships we had won were in fact world championships."

The Packers had won NFL championships in 1961, 1962, and 1965. Their Super Bowl victories after the 1966 and 1967 seasons made it five in seven years and three in a row for Green Bay, or Titletown, USA, as it was called then. "People seem to forget that there were world champions before they happened to call it the Super Bowl," Boyd Dowler says.

Eleven men played on all five of those championship teams. Three more missed only one of them. "You get into a habit, the going into the final game and winning it, it kind of becomes a way of life," Dowler said. "I don't think that attitude ever really leaves you. The nucleus of our team, it was like...well, certainly, we're going to win."

Lombardi and eight players from the first Super Bowl team are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Nitschke, Wood, Starr, Willie Davis, and Forrest Gregg played for all five champions, and Jim Taylor, Herb Adderley, and Paul Hornung played for four. Eighteen others are in the Packers Hall of Fame, including McGee, Dowler, Henry Jordan, Fuzzy Thurston, Jerry Kramer, and Bob Skoronski from all five champions. The others were Aldridge, Bowman, Don Chandler, Carroll Dale, Elijah Pitts, Lee Roy Caffey, Zeke Bratkowski, Ron Kostelnik, Bob Jeter, Gale Gillingham, Dave Robinson, and Donny Anderson.

"Everything Lombardi said comes back to you sometime," says Tom Brown, a safety on that first Super Bowl team. "He told us, 'You guys are not going to appreciate what you have done or you're going to try to do until you're fifty years old and you sit back and people write about the decade of the Colts or the Packers or whoever.' Now you say, 'Hey, he was right.' You appreciate it a lot more now than when you were doing it."

BART STARR

The week before the Super Bowl, the Packers practiced at the University of California-Santa Barbara's stadium. As Starr recalls, it was one of the first fields to use Tifton Bermuda grass, a softer surface than most grasses and a bed of feathers compared to the frozen fields of Green Bay. "It was so soft, and so nice, that having come out of the tundra of Wisconsin, we could not get enough of running around that first day," Starr says. "Coach Lombardi literally had to pull us off the field for fear that we were going to stay out too long."

It's doubtful he had to press the point. Even if the Packers didn't actually appear in the mirror whenever Lombardi shaved, they were very much the creatures of their coach. They believed what he said and followed what he did, and perhaps none more so than his quarterback and right arm.

The five championships in seven years, Starr says, not only were a source of pride for all the players, but also "a great tribute to our leader, Coach Lombardi. He epitomized a quest for excellence. He lived it through an example. Because of

"There's a big difference between supreme confidence and arrogance. Arrogance destroys you. Supreme confidence just won't permit you to lose."
Bart Starr

"Max pulled back his knee pads and rolled up his football pants so they were about Bermuda-shorts length. He said, 'The least we can do is get a nice little suntan.'"
Ken Bowman

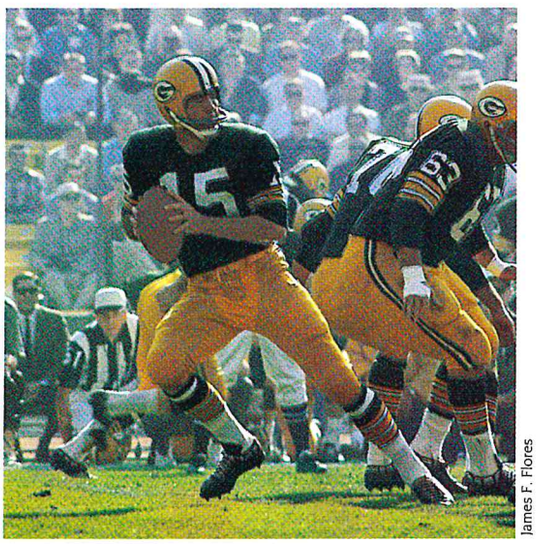
that, we all rose to a height that's hard to describe."

Beyond simply seeking new frontiers of excellence, Starr says Lombardi made the Packers believe it was possible. He vividly remembers the coach telling the players before the first Super Bowl, "You deserve to be here because of your dominance in the sixties, and it's fitting that you represent the NFL in this first game."

The Packers had no doubts they would beat the Chiefs, Starr says. It wasn't that they felt their talent was superior. They respected the Chiefs' considerable talent. But they also "knew we had more team maturity than they did," Starr says, "and because of that, we were supremely confident. There's a big difference between supreme confidence and arrogance. Arrogance destroys you. Supreme confidence just won't permit you to lose." Indeed, when McGee came off the bench to play a starring role, Starr says, he was "typical of our maturity and the strength we had throughout the team."

It became Starr's assignment to revive Lombardi's glory when, four years after his last playing season, he became Green Bay's head coach in 1975. "We lived there a total of 31 years, and we loved it," Starr says. He had a 53-77-3 record in nine years, then spent the next few years in Phoenix, with real estate and automobile businesses while he helped a group trying to lure an NFL expansion franchise. Now back in Birmingham, Alabama, Starr and his son Bart, Jr., specialize in building medical office buildings around the country through Starr's company, Starr Sanders Properties. Starr also is a frequent speaker on the anti-drug circuit, a particularly emotional subject to him after drugs took the life of his son Bret at 23 in 1987.

Starr ran Lombardi's offense with little fanfare and few mistakes.



James F. Flores

"We were speaking out before his death, but since that time, I've just felt a greater urge to go and assist where we could," Starr says.

KEN BOWMAN

For most of the 1966 season, Ken Bowman was out of the game by halftime. The Packers' center popped out his shoulder early in the schedule. "After that, I would play a quarter or so until I couldn't go," he says. Lombardi didn't plan to push him even that far against the Chiefs. Bowman began the game on the bench.

More precisely, Bowman began the game by pacing in *front* of the bench. "I always was kind of a nervous guy," he says. "I usually ranted and raved and went up and down the sidelines like a caged lion."

Max McGee was at the same end of the bench, comfortable in repose and hoping to watch the game without having Bowman block his view every few seconds. Using Bowman's nickname, McGee called out, "Sam, get over here and sit down."

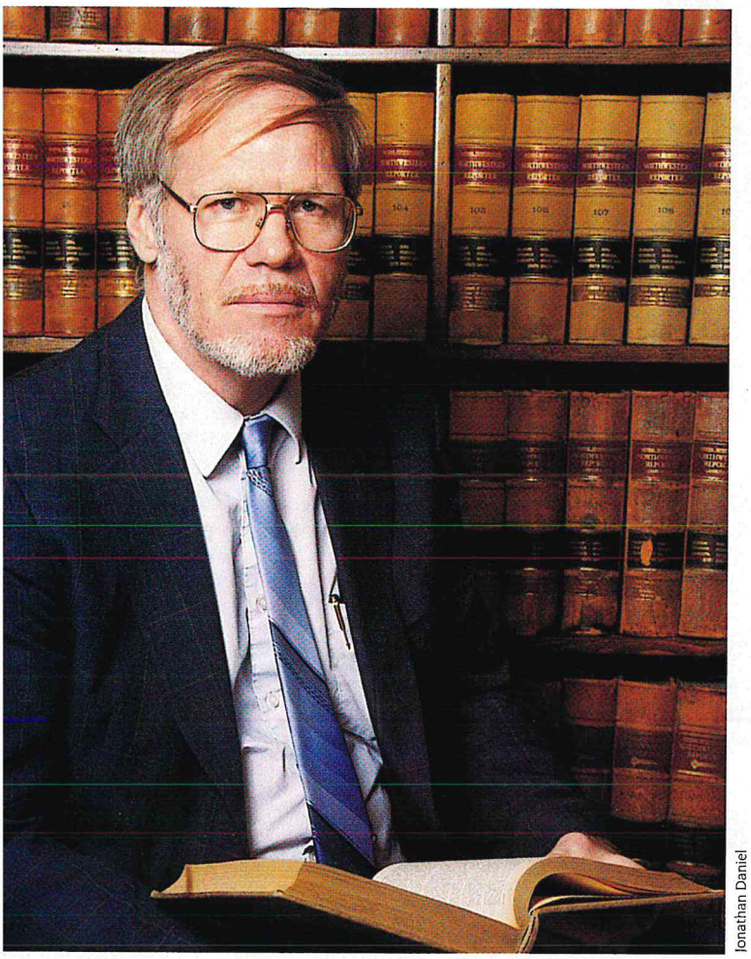
"Max pulled back his knee pads and rolled up his football pants so they were about Bermuda-shorts length," Bowman says. "He said, 'The least we can do is get a nice little suntan.' I don't think he even had thigh pads on."

Bowman's replacement was Bill Curry, a second-year center who went to the Colts the next year and then on to college coaching—he's now at Kentucky. But after Curry sprained his ankle in the second quarter, Bowman finished the game. He kept playing 10 seasons, through 1973, when he was the last remaining member of the three-time NFL champions of 1965-67. He had his law degree by then, but even so, the future daunted him.

"Let's face it," Bowman says. "You're doing something that approximately 1,300 individuals in this whole nation are good enough to do." For most of his career, he was the starting center for the best team. Then, outside football, he says, "There is always that uncertainty of what comes next. Where do I go from here? You start all over again because you sure as hell don't become one of the top lawyers in this country by simply hanging out a shingle."

He became a successful one, though. After a few years of defending clients for a Madison, Wisconsin, firm, Bowman says, "I really didn't like arguing that the little old lady who broke both of her legs didn't get hurt all that bad. I decided I would jump to the other side of the street and do plaintiffs' work and open up my own shop." He's still there, at the firm of Evans, Venci, Camilli, Bowman, and Dolatta in Green Bay.

After he returned to Green Bay, Bowman read about how his successor at center, Larry McCarren, was going to make $350,000 for one season. He



Jonathan Daniel

Now a respected attorney in Green Bay, Bowman was, in the early 1970s, the last remnant of the glory years.

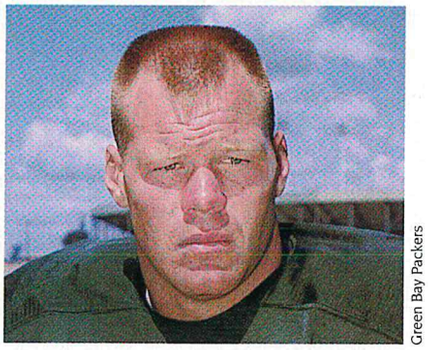
had known McCarren since McCarren was a rookie, so Bowman told him, "I added it up, and even if I throw in the two Super Bowls, you made as much in one year as I did in my whole career."

And McCarren said, "Yeah, Bow, but you got the rings."

BOYD DOWLER

Boyd Dowler and Max McGee had lockers next to each other for all nine seasons they played together. In the Coliseum, that meant the two split ends shared a cubicle. They always sat and talked before games, and, on this first Super Bowl Sunday, McGee told Dowler, "I sure hope you don't go down." In a melodrama, Dowler would have gulped. In real life, he just said, "Oh?"

Dowler knew there was a good chance he wouldn't last the whole game. He had played all season with a



Green Bay Packers

Bowman (above) played more than a half with an ailing shoulder.

special doughnut-shaped pad protecting his shoulder, where a calcium deposit had developed after a separation.

"It might have been the worst year of my career," he says now. Dowler didn't score a touchdown on his 29 regular-season catches, and the Packers leaned on flanker Carroll Dale for most of their outside receiving. The pad made it difficult for Dowler to raise his arms, or even to bring his hands close together. "I decided since I hadn't done anything all year long, that I'd go without it for that game," he says. "So I went out there without it and lasted two plays."

On the third play, Dowler blocked Chiefs safety Johnny Robinson. "Hit him pretty good, and I went over and stood on the sideline for the rest of the game. This calcium deposit looked like a big egg on top of my shoulder, and I cracked it," Dowler says.

The shoulder locked up, and Dowler had surgery as soon as the team returned to Green Bay.

"They introduced our offense before the game," Dowler says. "I was the first one introduced at a Super Bowl and the first one hurt. There's a trivia question!"

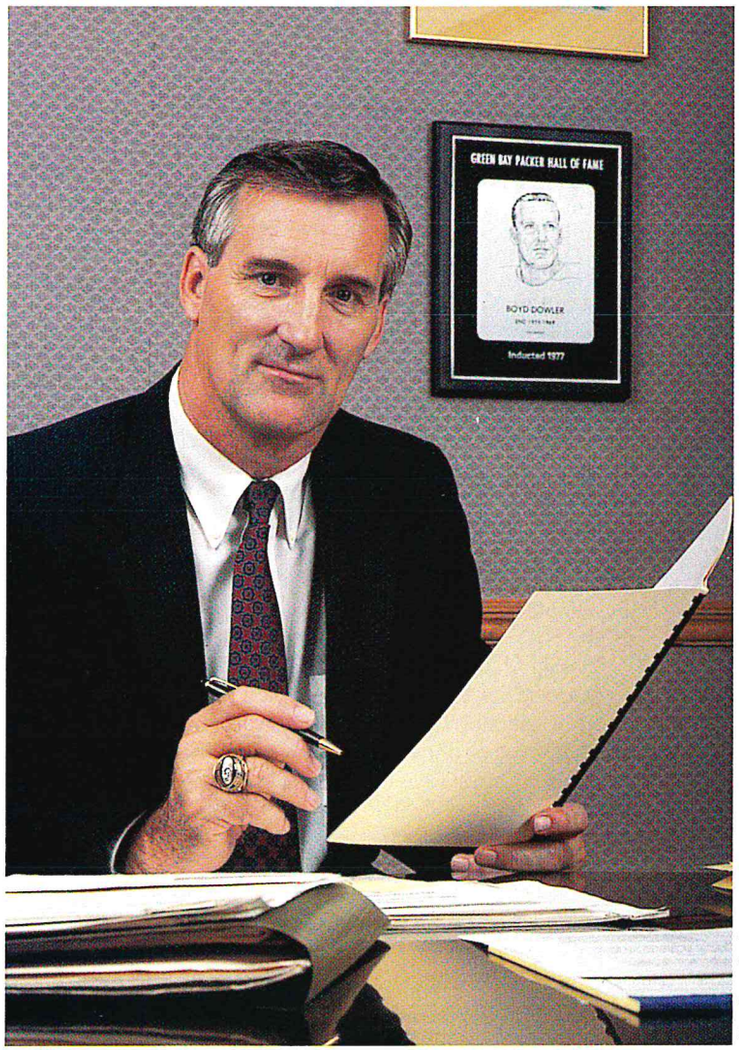
One reason Dowler had left the pad behind was that the game plan counted on exploiting Kansas City's secondary with passes to the split end. "I'd really been looking forward to it," he says.

But Dowler had every confidence in McGee, his fellow wide receiver and cubicle mate. "I knew what his problem was, and Max was probably capable of handling that sort of thing better than anyone else on our team," Dowler says, chuckling.

Dowler played for Green Bay from 1959-1969, on all five champions. He was NFL rookie of the year in 1959, when he led the Packers with 32 catches for 549 yards and 4 touchdowns. He also held or tied for the team reception lead in six other seasons, including a career-high total of 54 in 1967. Later, he coached on the staffs of the Rams, Redskins, Eagles, Bengals, and Buccaneers from 1970-1984, then settled in Tampa as a financial

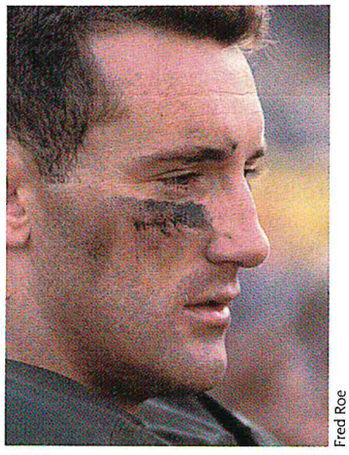
"They introduced our offense before the game. I was the first one introduced at a Super Bowl and the first one hurt. There's a trivia question!"

Boyd Dowler



Allen Dean Steele

Dowler, probably the Packers' best receiver for a decade, was deprived of Super Bowl playing time by a shoulder injury. He now is a financial analyst.



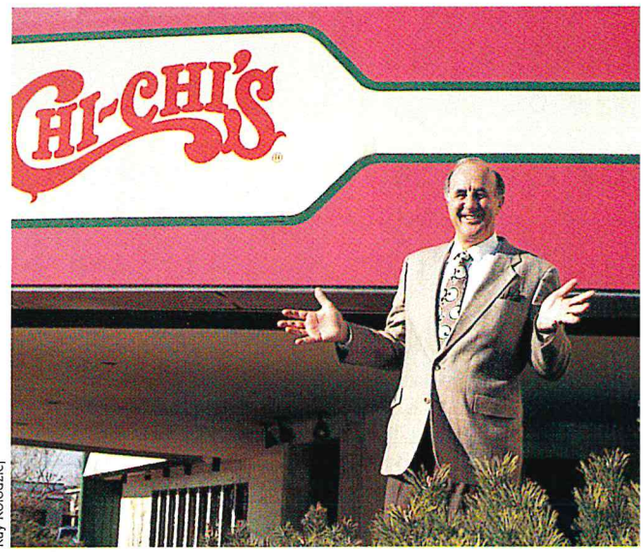
Fred Roe

INVINCIBLE PACKERS

MAX McGEE

"Actually, it wasn't that rough a night," Max McGee says now, 24 years later. He did go out to Sunset Strip, and he did run into some airline stewardesses he knew, and they did go back to the hotel where they all were staying. But he didn't spend the night drinking. "I'm not that strong, number one, and I'm not much of a drinker," McGee says. "We just kind of sat around and talked most of the night."

He had a good night's sleep Friday night. That was always the night McGee made sure to rest up. As most people have learned, it's the second day after a short night when a person feels as if he's wearing gravity boots. So that Sunday, McGee says, "I really felt pretty doggone good considering the lack of sleep. I wasn't expecting to play, but I wanted to play, and I was ready to play."



Ray Kolodziej

McGee, (above and at right), had one of the most famous nights-on-the-town in sports history.

There was no reason he should have expected to play after catching 4 passes for 91 yards the entire regular season. Hornung also expected to sit out the game with an injury. So the two of them were sitting on the bench, planning Hornung's stag party for his upcoming Las Vegas wedding, when they heard Lombardi scream, "McGee!"

McGee finished the game with 7 catches, 138 yards, and 2 touchdowns. On the first, he says he "just kind of stuck a hand back to knock down" an underthrown ball, "and it stuck in my hand." He scored the second touchdown in the back of the end zone, juggling the ball after a collision. But the play he remembers best was

analyst. He now works for Carr and Associates, a financial consulting firm.

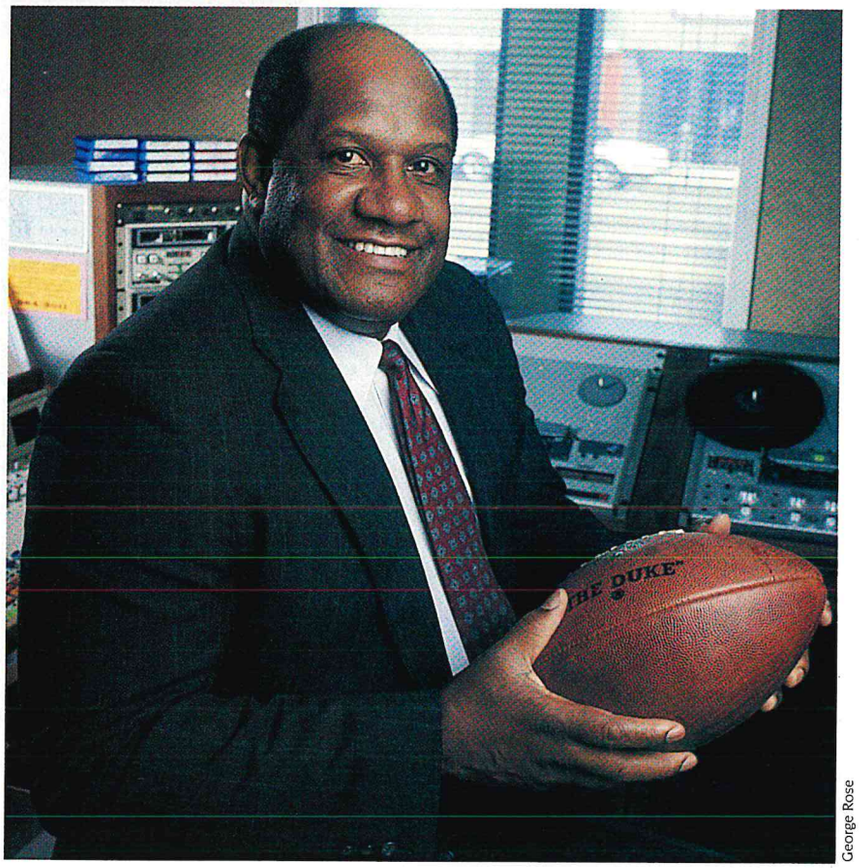
"You get into a habit—the winning—and it kind of becomes a way of life," Dowler says. "I don't think that attitude ever really leaves you. Sometimes the results aren't the same. But that real belief that you do have something special, that you are going to win—I think it's a little bit different than just winning one NFL championship."

the touchdown that got away.

McGee had told Lombardi he had a play that would score the next time the Packers reached the Kansas City 40. They soon got there, and Lombardi let him call his play, where he faked the short post and broke outside. "I told Bart, 'When I cut back out, I think you'll find the defensive back laying down on his back.' And that's exactly what happened. I break in, I break out, [Willie] Mitchell falls down, and Bart threw it to Elijah Pitts on a swing pattern. He must have been getting a rush."

Lombardi talked McGee into playing one more season. When he retired at 35, he and guard Fuzzy Thurston already had a bar and restaurant chain, in Wisconsin and Minnesota, called The Left Guard. After a while, McGee met someone in the Mexican fast-food business, and they bought the Minneapolis Left Guard to turn it into a Mexican restaurant and bar. They called it Chi Chi's. Now, Chi Chi's has been franchised all over the country.

"At least it afforded me to get into my old age without having to make a comeback," says McGee. "But there's still a chance I might go into heavyweight boxing."



George Rose

WILLIE DAVIS

Of all the Packers, Willie Davis might have taken Lombardi's warnings of caution most to heart. "I think we immediately realized if we allowed this team [the Chiefs] to get some early success that we'd have a monster," he says.

Tony Tomsic

So Davis didn't use his best pass-rush move, the "club," an inside move on which he would take a couple steps upfield, "kind of club your guy with a half forearm, and just bounce him outside."

The Packers' defensive end on the left side, Davis was afraid of letting Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson scramble outside of him for a big play.

"Lombardi helped me to go to that next level of opening up and doing everything I felt capable of doing," Davis says. "At halftime, he said, 'Look, you guys have played thirty minutes of football adjusting to the Kansas City Chiefs, and we're in pretty good shape. What I'd like to get you to do now is play thirty minutes of football the way you can play and let them try to adjust to you.' That was like opening up the whole thing."

On the first long-yardage play of the second half, Davis recalls bringing out the club, "And just as I thought, I was scot-free." Davis made Dawson throw the ball away, as Dawson often did in a second half of 5-for-12 passing. But, looking back at the slow start, Davis says, "We probably went about it the right way. Had we gone about it a different way and allowed them to get some momentum and their confidence up, who knows?"

Davis's success story didn't take a downturn

Davis, discussed as a potential successor to Pete Rozelle in 1989, has been one of the most successful ex-Packers.

Malcom Emmons

His football career helped him in business.... "But there were things I distinctly had to leave behind because they didn't quite fit in," Davis says. The head slap, for example.

when his 10-year career ended after the 1969 season. His wholesale beverage distribution business thrived for 18 years until he sold it in 1988, and his All-Pro Broadcasting company still owns radio stations in Milwaukee, Denver, and Los Angeles, where he lives. He is on several corporate boards of directors, and he was a finalist when the NFL was looking for a new commissioner in 1989. "You feel good about even being in that process," he says, "even though I was keenly aware in the very beginning that that job required more of an insider than an outsider."

Ken Regan

It wasn't as easy as Davis made it look, though. Moving from football to business, he says, "You have to cut the cord. It is probably the toughest thing I've had to do because I enjoyed athletics, and it's kind of a reaction always to want to think back to those days."

His football career helped him in business. The motivation, the desire to win, those remnants of his football career are "very healthy," Davis says. "But there were things I distinctly had to leave behind because they didn't quite fit in." The head slap, for example. "At least, not the same type of head slap," Davis says with a laugh.

For Davis, the most lasting effect of the Packers' championships was the higher level of expectations it gave him. "I would not accept defeat under any conditions today," he says. "I will tolerate it for a moment, but I won't accept it as an ongoing condition. I think you have temporary setbacks, but you really have to dust yourself off and go back with the idea that given another chance, I'm going to win this thing."

LIONEL ALDRIDGE

When the Packers won the first Super Bowl, Lionel Aldridge already was a promising sportscaster. He began working offseasons at Milwaukee's NBC television affiliate, WTMJ, in 1965. After finishing his career as a defensive end in 1973, he joined WTMJ full-time, did radio color for Packers' games and worked some regional telecasts as an NBC-TV network color analyst. "He brought some insight as an analyst that a lot of former players don't bring," says Hank Stoddard, WTMJ's sports director then and now.

Stoddard was one of the first to notice when Aldridge began behaving strangely, but he wasn't alarmed until the day Aldridge said he would do his five-minute 5 P.M. sports report without a prepared script. Shortly after that, Aldridge had a breakdown at home and killed his dog. He was committed to the Milwaukee County Medical Complex, where he spent two or three months.

There were times after his release when Aldridge seemed just like his old self, but he was erratic. He had another breakdown. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia, a mental illness that often leaves its victims' intelligence intact but cripples them with indifference, hallucinations, and delusions of omnipotence and persecution.

Aldridge left WTMJ after the second breakdown. His marriage fell apart. He went to California, where there was the possibility of an assistant coaching job at the University of California. He wasn't seen again in Milwaukee until several years later, when the *Milwaukee Journal* ran a front-page picture of him at a church-sponsored soup kitchen for the homeless. He had become a street person, drifting south for winters and back north for summers. He left Milwaukee when he saw the picture and wound up in Utah, where he had gone to Utah State, and found work as a prison guard.

He's back in Milwaukee now, living an unimpaired life, his illness controlled by medication. He travels all over the country and Canada "and anywhere else they'll listen to me," Aldridge says, telling his story as an educating advocate

Aldridge has seen the worst of times since retiring. Now he's putting his experience to work with the Milwaukee Mental Health Association.

David Boss

for mental health.

He is on the board of directors of the Milwaukee Mental Health Association, a fund-raising and advocacy organization for the mentally ill. "He's a very well-received speaker," says Association spokeswoman Liz Larson. "In fact, when we had a fund-raiser last spring, Lionel was our grand prize." The person who raised the most money had the use of a big-screen TV at home for a Sunday, with Aldridge there to watch and discuss a Packer game.

Aldridge constantly runs into strangers who tell him the Packers of the 1960s were their favorite team of all time. "We gave people good feelings at that time by winning and by giving them something to associate with that was good and that they were happy with," he says. "It's the same thing that they give back to us at this time in our lives. Every time you meet someone from that era, they recall all those feelings that they had, and when they talk about it, they give it all back to you."

Aldridge wasn't seen again in Milwaukee Journal *ran a front-page picture of him at a church-sponsored soup kitchen for the homeless.*

FORREST GREGG

At right offensive tackle, Forrest Gregg's Kansas City opponent across the line was Chiefs defensive end Jerry Mays. Mays had followed Gregg at Southern Methodist, and somewhere, sometime he mentioned that Gregg always had been his hero. "I never will forget when we were down on their goal line and Kansas City put up a defense we hadn't seen before," Gregg says. "I looked down at [right guard] Jerry Kramer and said, 'Who've you got?' He said, 'You take your hero there, and I'll take this guy.'"

Several years later, when Gregg recalled the story with Mays, Mays told him Kramer broke him up so much, "He didn't even remember what he did on the play."

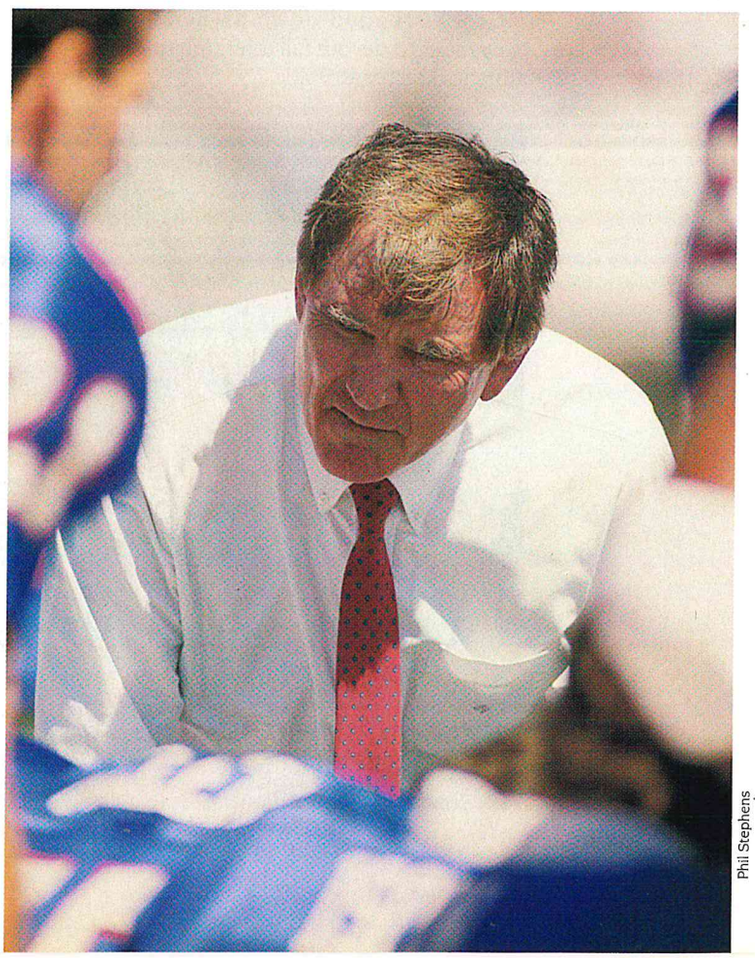
Gregg, who Lombardi called the best player he ever coached, finished his 15-year playing career with a third Super Bowl championship as a player-coach for the 1971 Cowboys. He stayed in coaching, and was the second former Super Bowl player to coach a Super Bowl team—the 1981 Bengals (following Tom Flores and preceding Mike Ditka, Dan Reeves, and Sam Wyche). Gregg was head coach for the Browns (1975-77), the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts (1979), the Bengals (1980-83), and the Packers (1984-87).

He left Green Bay for his other alma mater, SMU, in 1988 to rebuild the football program that had been given the death penalty by the NCAA. In 1990, their second comeback season, the Mustangs had just two seniors who had been on the 1986 team and transferred back. The rest were freshmen and sophomores.

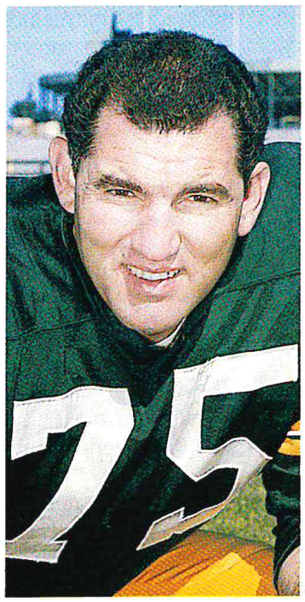
"I had never gone into games so totally outmanned," Gregg says. "It was scary at times. I guess the thing I've learned here more than anything else is patience."

People do love an underdog. "And that helps you fight," Gregg says. On the other hand, nobody wants to lose to freshmen and sophomores. "They

After a rough ride as head coach at SMU, Gregg is concentrating full time on his job as athletic director. He coached the Bengals to Super Bowl XVI in 1981.



Phil Stephens



Green Bay Packers

Lombardi called Gregg, a nine-time Pro Bowl selection at tackle, the finest player he ever coached.

play you tough," he says. But SMU won two games in its 11-game return season in 1989. In the first victory, they beat Connecticut 31-30 with a touchdown pass on the last play of the game. "I can't remember a more emotional game," Gregg says.

Even in 1989, Gregg says he never went into a game thinking there was no way he could win. "I don't think you ever accept that," he says. "You're thinking somehow, some way we'll get it done. We'll have to have some breaks and the players will have to play above their capabilities, but there's always that chance. That's what makes this game fun. You always go into a game thinking you'll find a way to win."

Gregg stepped down as head coach last November to devote full attention to his duties as athletic director at SMU.

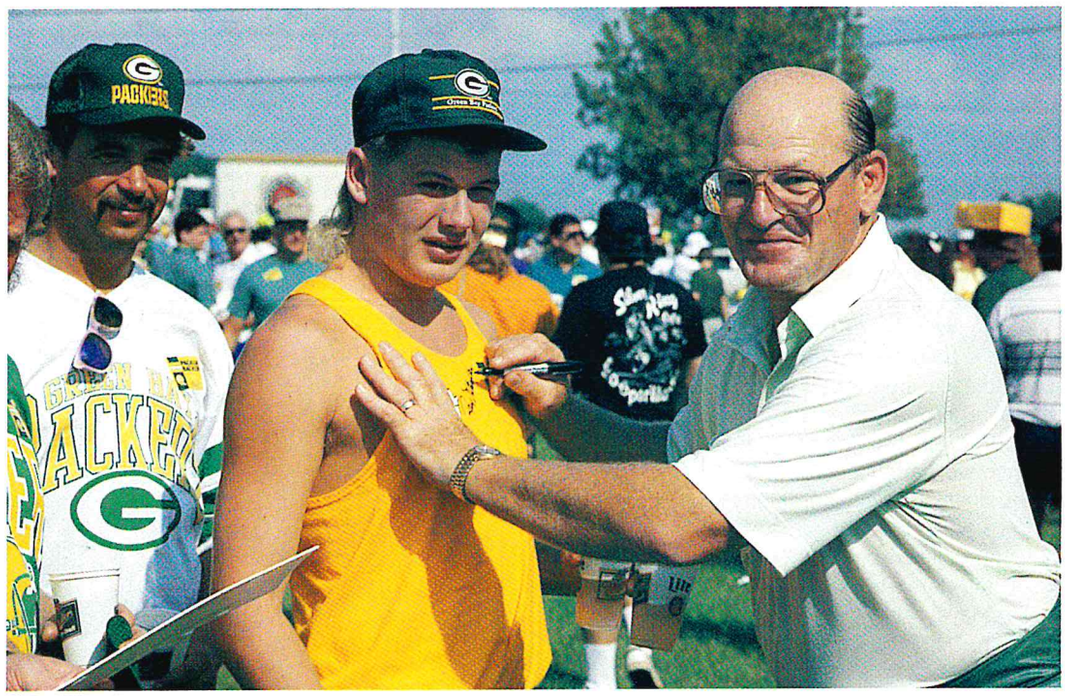
RAY NITSCHKE

The vivid memory among most former Packers of preparing for the Chiefs was their uncertainty. "We really didn't know how good they were and we didn't know if they had any weaknesses because we had never played anybody in the American Football League," says Ray Nitschke, the middle linebacker and defensive quarterback. "We watched movies of a majority of their games that year, but we didn't know how good their opposition was."

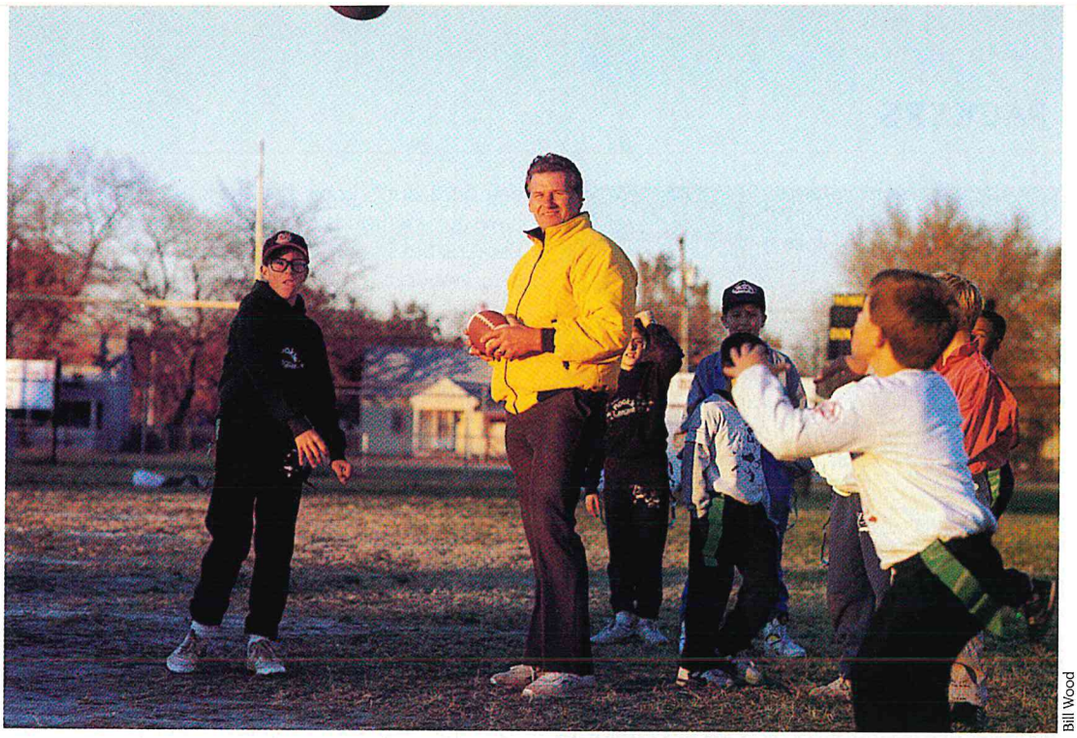
Without that reference point, the players were on unfamiliar ground. Lombardi and his staff ordinarily prepared them so thoroughly for opponents, they were more accustomed to knowing the other guys' next play before the quarterback called it in the huddle. But against the Chiefs, they couldn't even be sure of what little they knew about the players, or what the Chiefs liked to do, or where they could be taken advantage of.

The Packers' eggshell carpet of tentativeness in that game was most prominent for the defense. It was the defense that had to react to the Chiefs, whose 32 points a game that regular season were eight more than Green Bay averaged. It was the defense that could give up points on any play. And it was the defense that eventually swept the carpet clean and put the Packers on the fast track.

Nitschke and his cohorts limited Kansas City to 239 yards from scrimmage, including only 72 on the ground, and recorded 6 sacks with a relentless pass rush. In the pivotal third quarter, the Chiefs



Vernon Biever



Bill Wood

The Lombardi intensity is the only thing missing from Brown's Rookie League sports camp in Maryland.

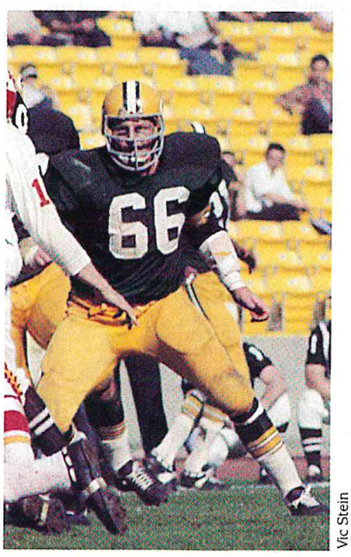
The Packers courted their new draft choice by taking him to their 1962 title game in frozen Yankee Stadium. "Those guys just looked so big to me, I said, 'God, I'm going to try baseball,'" Brown says.

gained 12 yards.

"The big play was when Henry Jordan put a lot of pressure on Dawson and Willie Wood intercepted the football [and returned it 50 yards to the Kansas City 5-yard line]," Nitschke says. "From then on, we were a different football team. I think we relaxed and did the things we were capable of doing. In any game, especially a championship game, you can't be uptight. You've just got to keep doing what you were doing all season."

Like Aldridge, Nitschke does a lot of occupational traveling these days. He's a public relations spokesman for several companies. He meets a lot of people, and most of them quickly remember him as the Packers linebacker with the scholarly glasses and the bone-rattling smashes.

Nitschke (opposite and below) was a terror at middle linebacker.



Vic Stein

"I think the thing about people is, they like somebody who tries," Nitschke says. "Hopefully, that was me—I did put out an effort. I did try to be the best football player I could be. I think people like that in a human being."

TOM BROWN

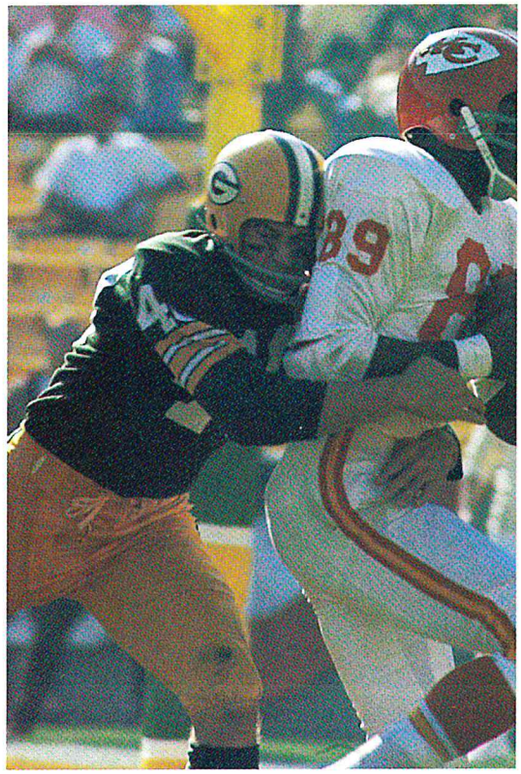
Watching film of the Chiefs before the game, safety Tom Brown was surprised by Kansas City's linebackers. They did not drop into pass coverage to help the defensive backs out by taking away the short patterns. "Those four guys were literally covering all over the field," he says. That was the weakness the Packers exploited best, especially with the crossing routes to McGee. "We relied heavily on the linebackers to drop back into coverage," Brown says. "I thought they were an instrumental part of the success of the Packers."

They were helping a different way on an early second-half play. The Packers were in one of their rare blitzes. Dawson threw a wobbly pass. Wood, the other safety, intercepted it.

"That turned the game around," Brown says. "Lombardi always told us there are two or three plays that are going to determine the difference between winning and losing, and you don't know when they're going to come."

Brown had made one himself in the game that put Green Bay in the Super Bowl, a 34-27 victory in the NFL Championship Game in Dallas. On fourth down from the Packers' 2, linebacker Dave Robinson chased Don Meredith from the pocket and forced a hurried pass that Brown intercepted in the end zone.

Brown still is the only former major league baseball player who also played in a Super Bowl. He played the 1963 season with the Washington Senators, "but I didn't play like Bo Jackson is now play-



James F. Flores

Brown was a typical member of the 1960s Packers: capable, efficient, but not a household name.

ing," he says. He chose baseball after the Packers courted their new draft choice by taking him to their 1962 NFL Championship Game in frozen Yankee Stadium. "Those guys just looked so big to me, I said, 'God, I'm going to try baseball,'" he says. But the switch-hitting outfielder couldn't solve major league pitching, so after a year and a half of baseball, he joined the Packers in 1964.

Now he's involved with both sports, plus basketball. For 18 years, Tom Brown's Rookie League in Salisbury, Maryland, has been a place for children ages 6-12 to learn sports without having to master skills they're too young to learn. "We try to give them a positive experience and let them have a good time," he says, "similar to when we were growing up and we chose up sides and played all night."

ELIJAH PITTS

Ron Pitts is the Packers' first legacy. He was only 4 when his father Elijah scored a pair of touchdowns in the first Super Bowl, but he knew his way around Lambeau Field. "He loved to go to the locker room with me," Elijah says. "He also loved to just bum around on my day off. I don't know that he was old enough to have any memories or a real desire to play for the Packers, but I think it's just like the son of a doctor or a lawyer. It's your mom's and dad's livelihood and you just evolve into it."

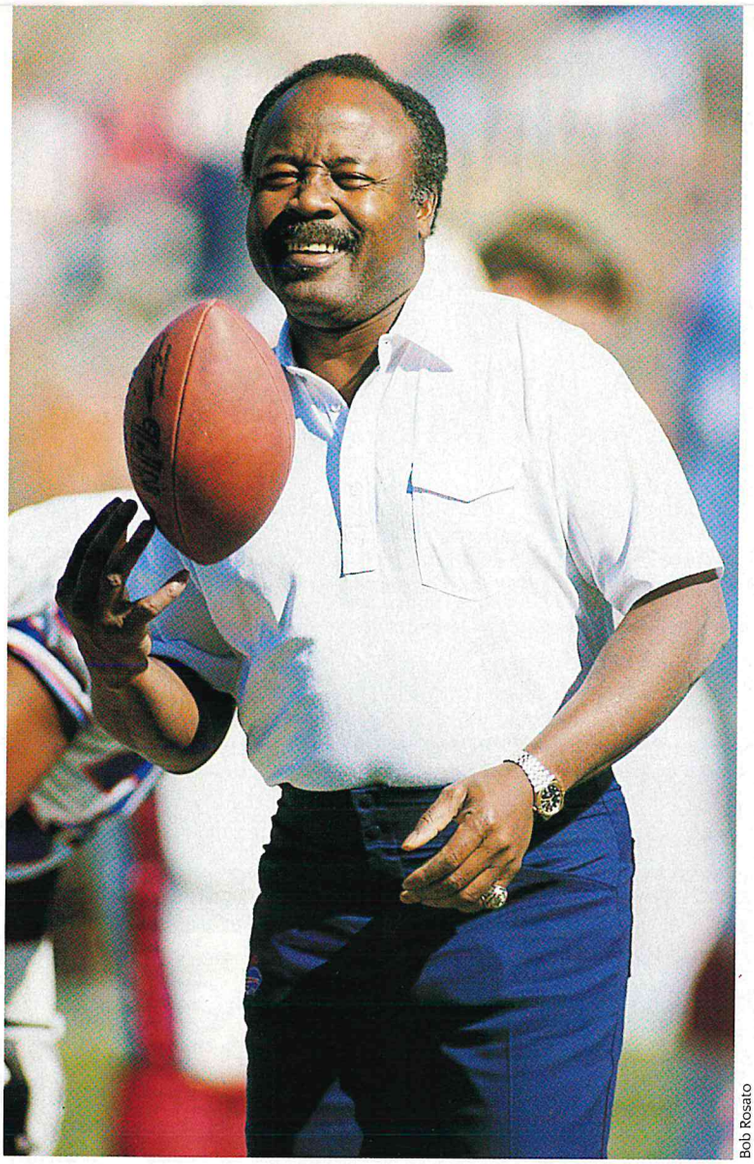
The son, a cornerback, was drafted by Buffalo in 1985, the year the father rejoined the Bills' coaching staff. The son was cut just before the 1988 season, but the Packers picked him up quickly. "Kind of ironic," the father says. "Seeing the uniform, it's still a friendly color."

The father's career also started gradually. Not until his sixth season, 1966, did Pitts emerge from Hornung's considerable shadow to become the number-one halfback. He ran for 393 yards and 7 touchdowns that year on 115 carries, and he added 460 yards and 3 touchdowns on 26 catches. Taylor outrushed him 56 yards to 45 in the Super Bowl, but Pitts outscored Taylor 12-6 with a 5-yard run after Wood's interception and a 1-yard run that finished the scoring.

What Pitts remembers most about the week happened a day or two before the game. At the Packers' hotel for the weekend in Los Angeles, NFL all-stars already had assembled for the Pro Bowl, which would be played the next weekend in Los Angeles. "I re-

Could Pitts have known 20 years ago that his son Ron would one day grow into that Packers helmet?

Vernon Biever



Bob Rosato

Pitts is hoping his brushes with greatness will rub off on his current charges, the Buffalo Bills.

member being extremely nervous going to the stadium," Pitts says, "because the NFL guys, whether they were from the Eastern Conference or the Western Conference, were all hepped up and saying, 'Go out and show them who's boss.' When you got on the field, you felt like you had the burden of the entire league on your shoulders."

In case that wasn't enough pressure, Lombardi had spent two weeks impressing the Packers with the Chiefs' qualifications for the championship game, putting particular emphasis on their size. "And they *were* big," Pitts says. "I think the first few series—maybe most of the first half—we were probably waiting for these big, bad guys to crush us. Then we realized, they were human, too."

Pitts scouted for two seasons after retiring as a player, and, since 1974, he has been an assistant coach with the Rams, Bills, Oilers, Hamilton Tiger-Cats in Canada (where he was offensive coordinator), and the Bills again. As Buffalo's current running backs coach, he oversees one of the league's best ground games.

Every once in a while, he wears his Super Bowl ring to work, knowing some players will notice. Some of them weren't even born when Pitts earned it.

"They want to know about your experiences," Pitts says. "Some of them, you joke with. You say, 'Hey, I'm not going to tell you. I want you to experience it yourself.' And sometimes, I will describe the feeling. I'll say, 'Guys, there's no better feeling, believe me, than playing in the biggest game of all and being able to win. That's something you should shoot for.'

"I remember the great feeling after it was over, and then all of a sudden, it kind of dawned on you. You say, 'Geez, you know, this is one thing they can never take away. You won the first Super Bowl.'"

"Lombardi's basic tenet—you don't do things right once in a while; you do things right all the time—still echoes through my mind, no matter what I'm doing."
Jerry Kramer

JERRY KRAMER

The week leading up to the game, there was a robbery in the Packers' Santa Barbara hotel. Kramer wasn't aware of it at the time. He was busy at the team poker games. "I had a very good week," he says. "When the guy robbed the desk clerk of $160, I had $10,000 in my pocket." A very good week indeed.

Kramer remembers feeling confident Green Bay would beat Kansas City, but feeling even more strongly that he didn't want to be embarrassed. All the Packers felt that way, but the urge was less foreign to Kramer, an offensive guard.

"As an offensive lineman, you play to protect other people most of your life," he says. "In that game, you played to protect your reputation, and the NFL's reputation."

He also sensed that the Chiefs made avoiding embarrassment their first priority, too. But embarrassment had a different definition for the Chiefs. The AFL team didn't have to avoid defeat, as the Packers did. They just had to avoid being blown out.

"They put up a good fight," Kramer says. At half-

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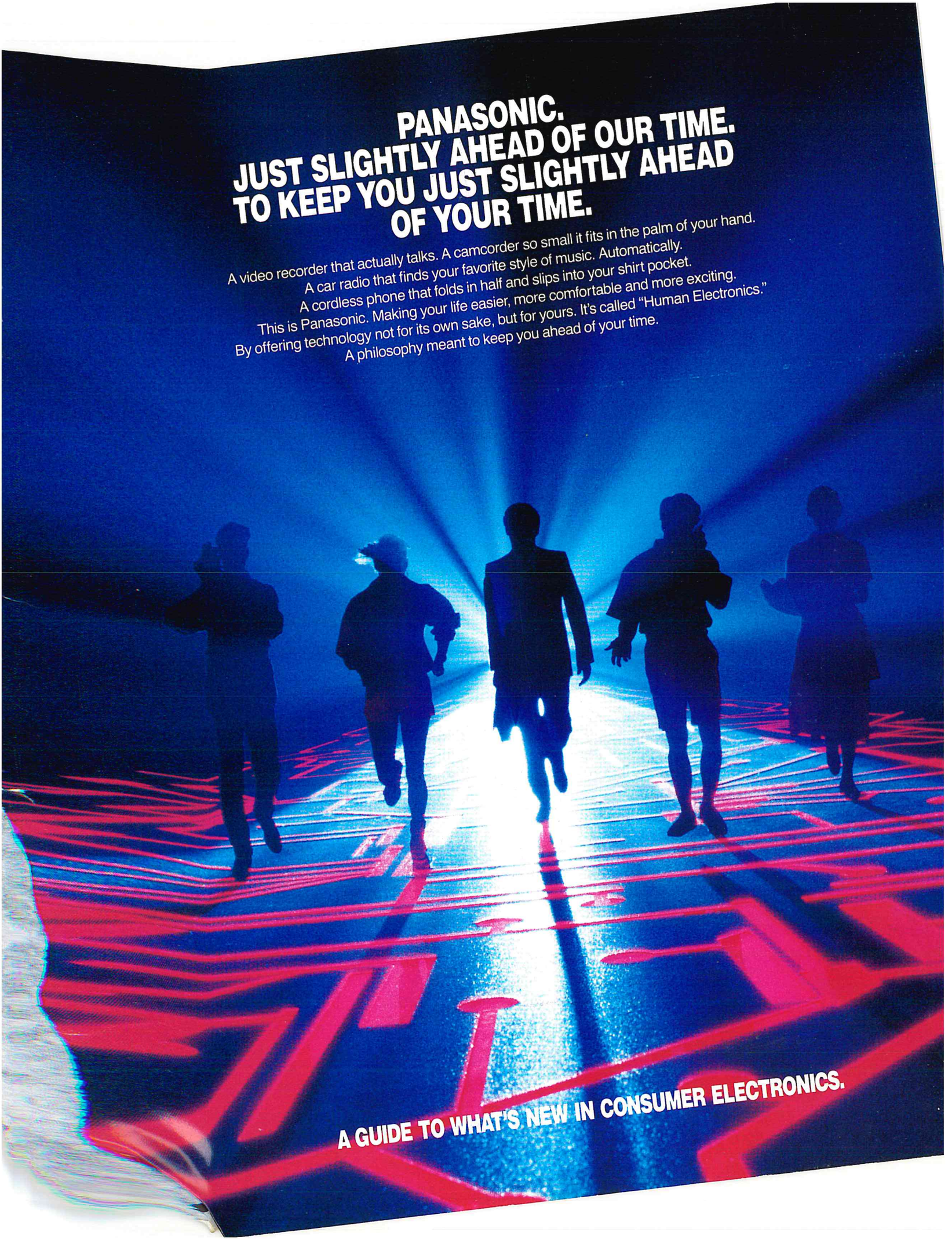
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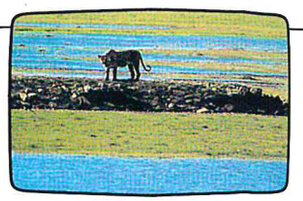

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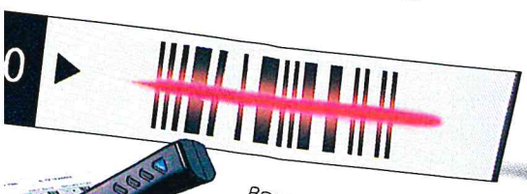

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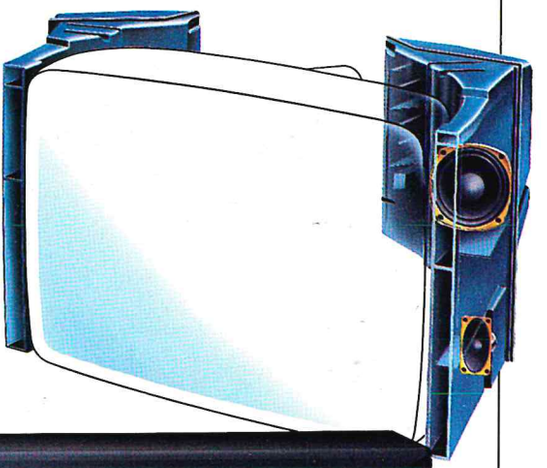

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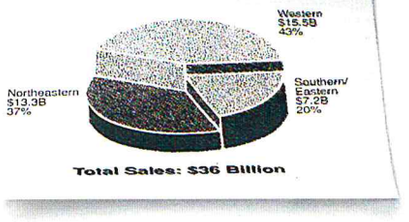

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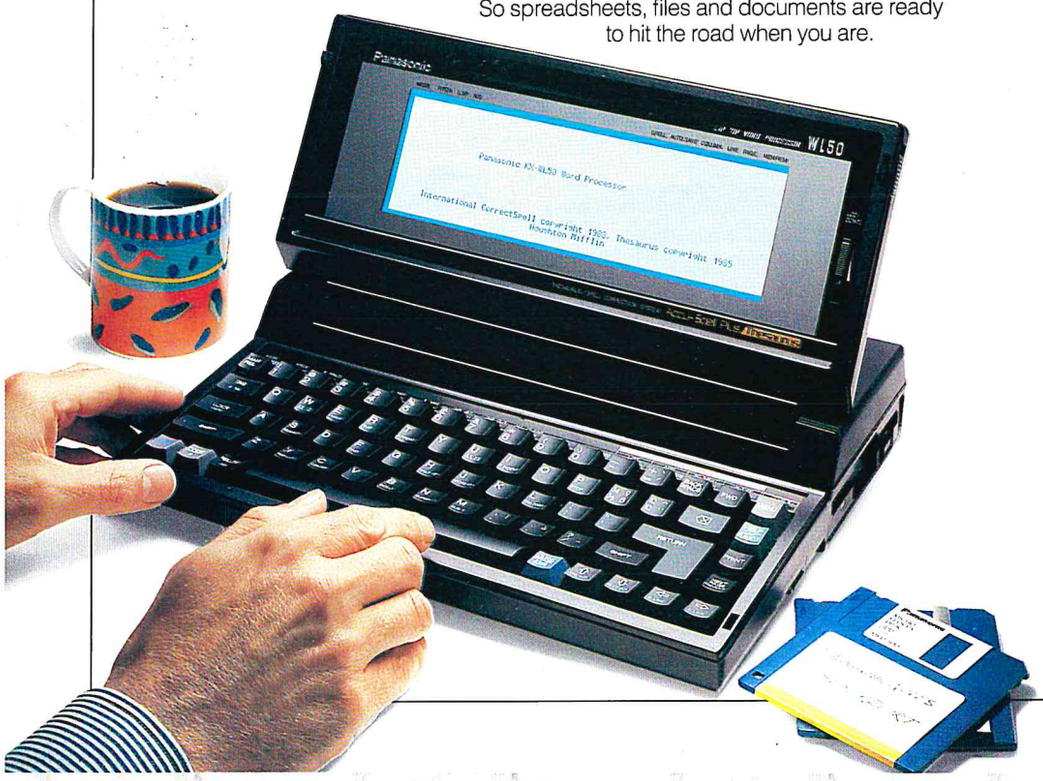

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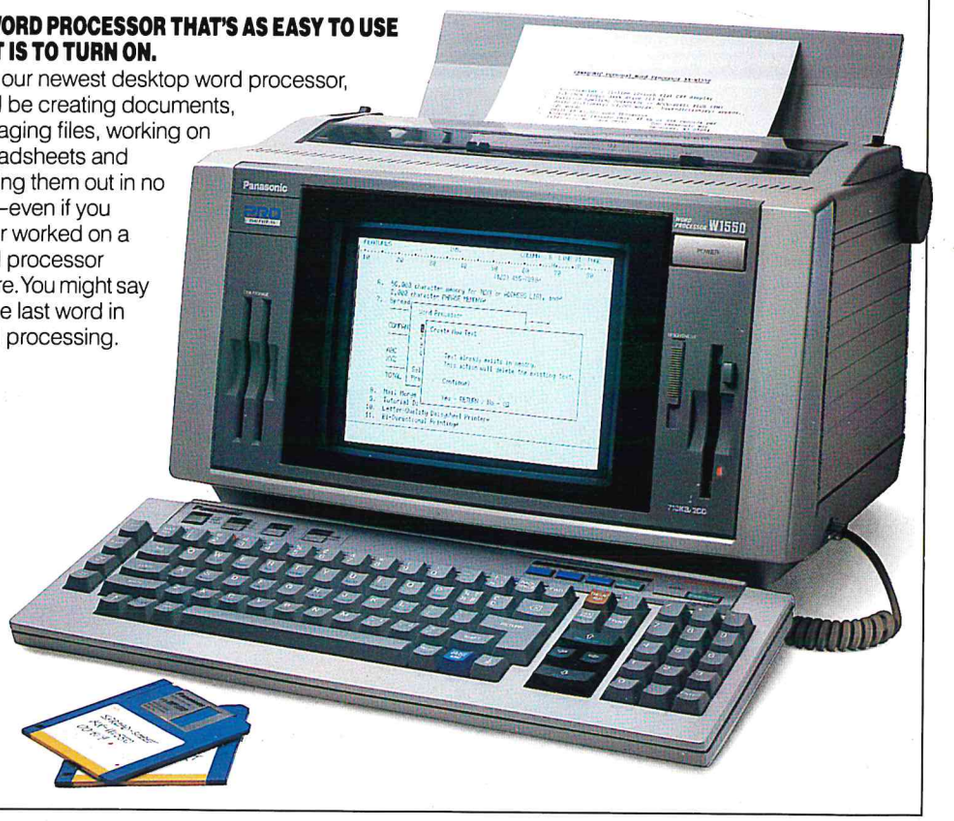

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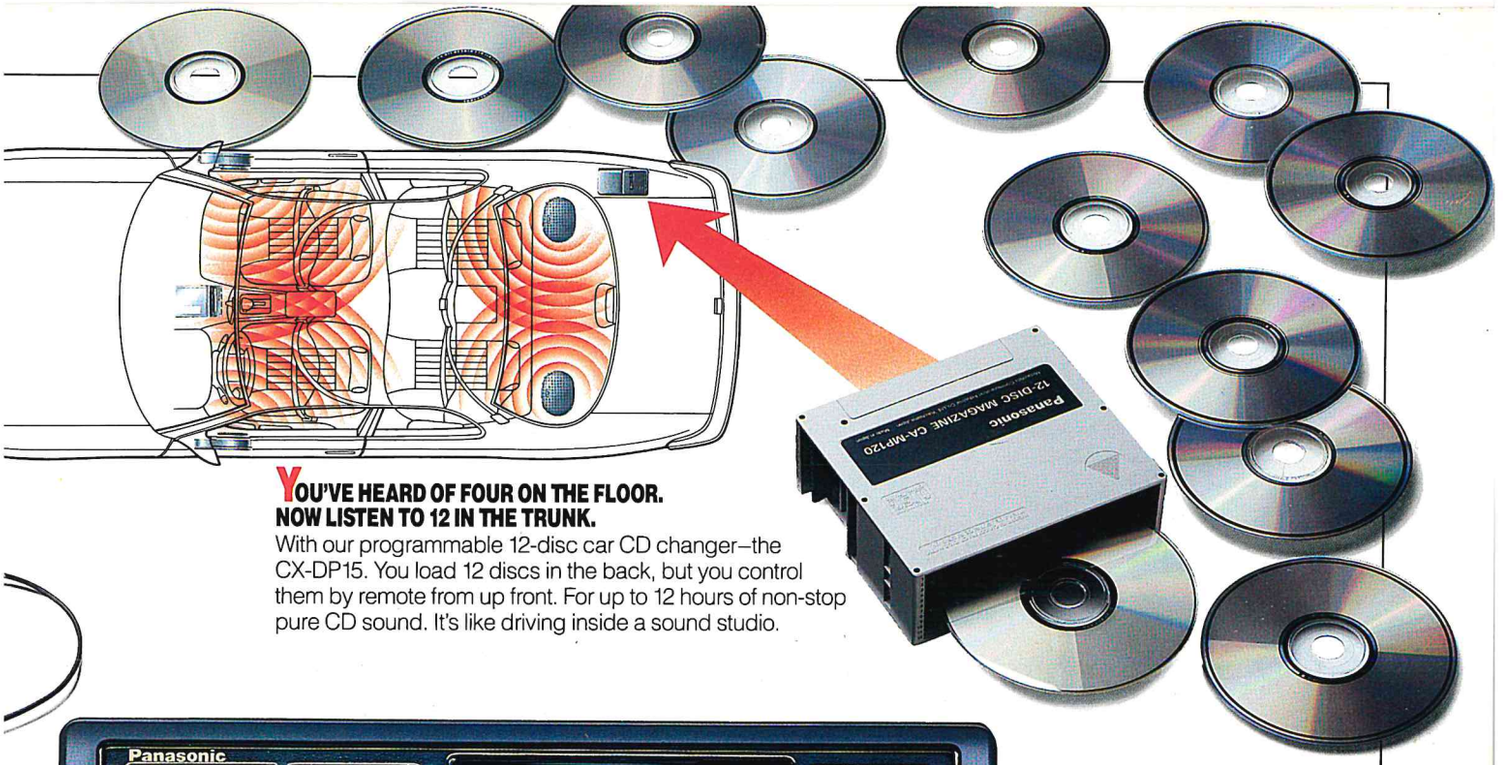

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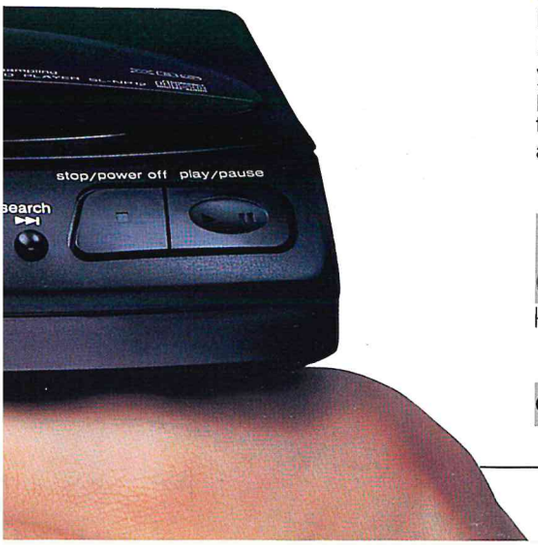

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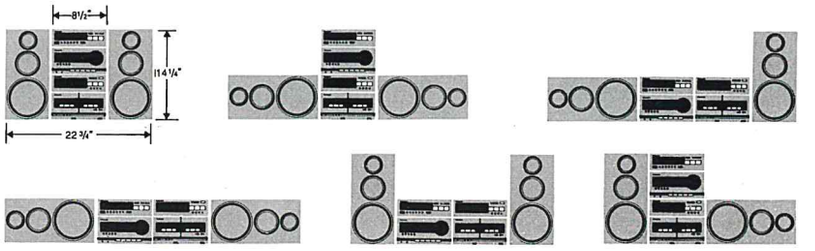

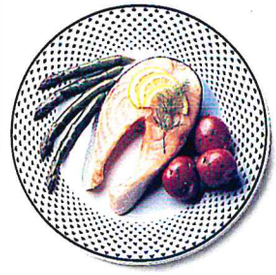

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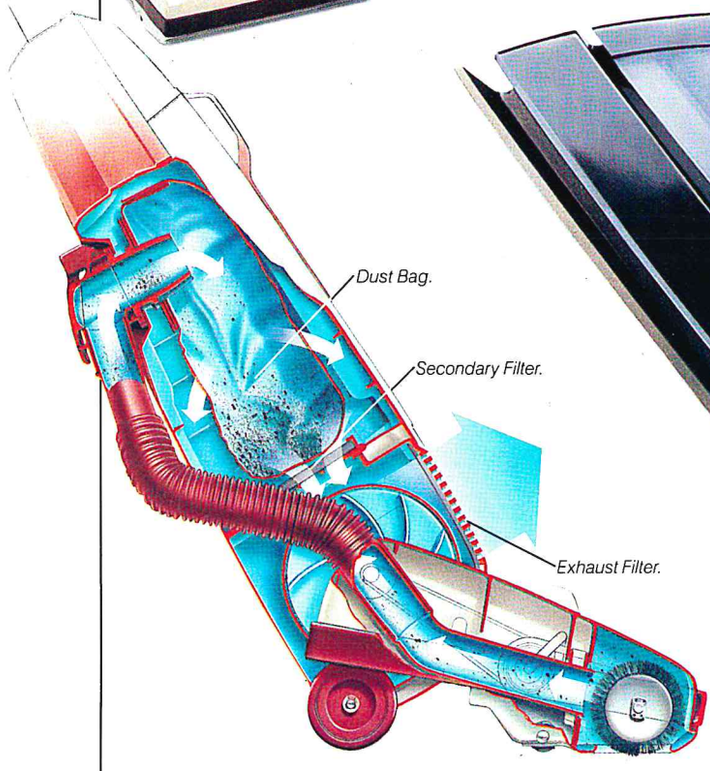

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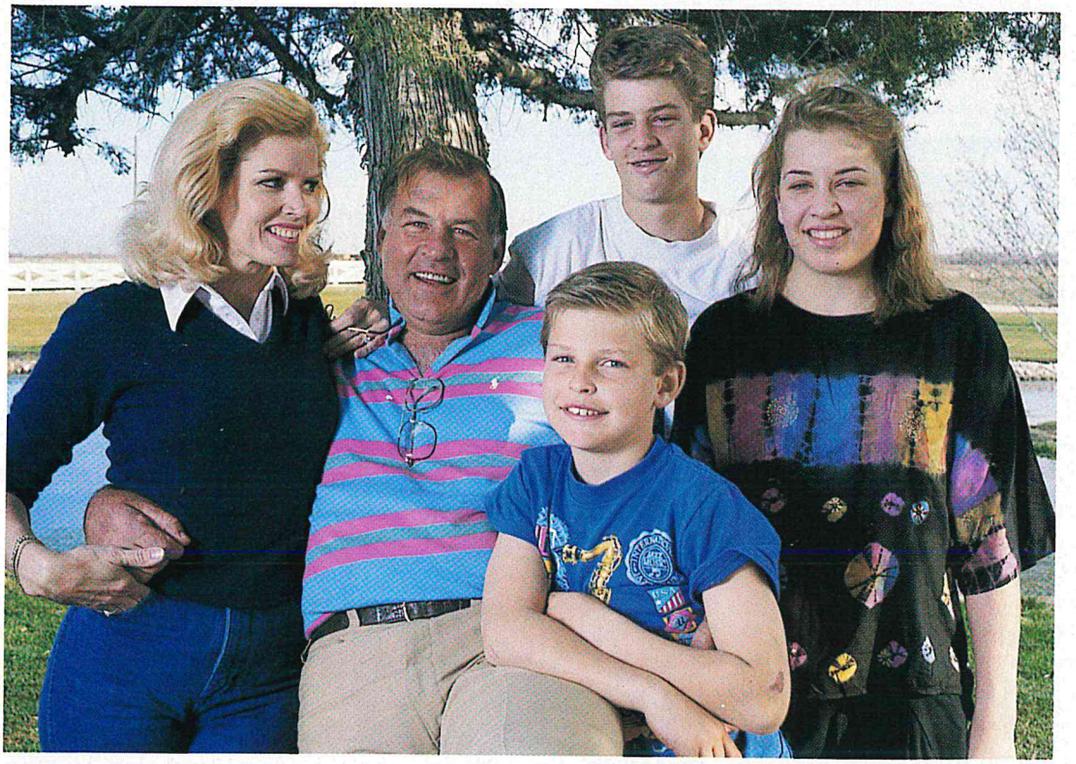


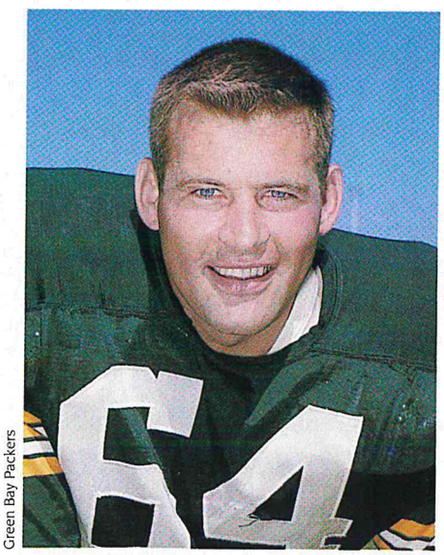
Pam Ben Ham

Kramer, now a long-distance entrepreneur, is more than just a jock when he's with his family on their Idaho ranch.

time, Kansas City trailed only 14-10, "and I think they felt they had done a good job. I never really discussed this with Len [Dawson] or Buck [Buchanan] or their other good athletes, but I don't think they expected to win. I felt like they relaxed at halftime."

Kramer still was a year away from blocking Jethro Pugh on the winning touchdown of the 1967 NFL Championship Game—the Ice Bowl block that made him the most recognized guard of all-time and fueled sales of his autobiography, *Instant Replay*, to bestseller status. Kramer followed a few years ago with *Distant Replay*. He always has been a symbol of the Packers' formidable success. "You can't escape that success, even if you try," he says.

Kramer tried, from time to time. He estimates he has been in "fifteen to seventeen different business-



Kramer's crushing block in the Ice Bowl gave him lasting fame.

Green Bay Packers

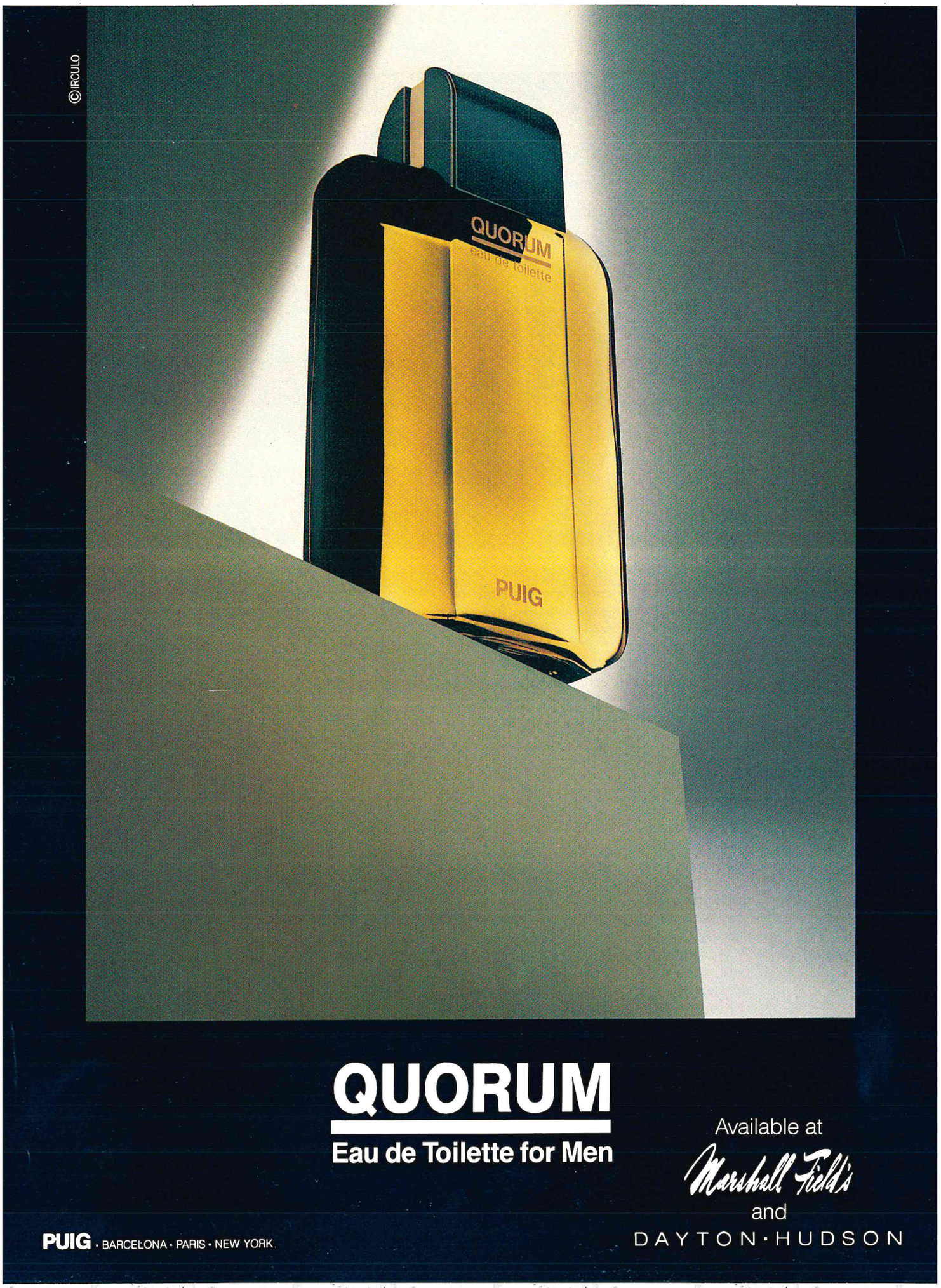
es, ninety percent of which have been very successful." He made enough money doing one thing to go into the next. "I was looking for something that would equal that emotional experience of playing football and winning," he says. That was impossible, he knows, but other remnants of the Packers are just as impossible to lose.

"The pride you achieved is with you all the time," he says. "The ring you wear is a constant reminder of your ability to attain the most lofty of all goals. Lombardi's basic tenet—you don't do things right once in a while; you do things right all the time—still echoes through my mind, no matter what I'm doing."

Now, after years of spending "too much time on the road," he lives mostly on a ranch in Idaho. He still has an energy business in Houston and a sports marketing company, Pro Ventures International, in San Jose. He is part of a group that is trying to convince the NFL to play a preseason game in Moscow. And he still travels to make 20 to 25 speeches a year, after begging off the banquet circuit in the late 1970s for seven or eight years.

"Ten years ago, I said, 'Hell with it. That's it. I'm done. I'm in the business world. I'm not a jock anymore,'" Kramer says. But the fans kept demanding to hear what old jocks had to say, especially old Packers, and Kramer grew a little older and mellower.

"Here I am, fifty-four years old [now fifty-five] and still a jock," he says. "I guess I'll always be a jock in their minds."



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SPOTLIGHT XXV

THE PIONEERS

Peacemakers

When Lamar Hunt and Tex Schramm Talked, Pro Football Listened...and a Merger Was Made

By Jim Perry

Their first meeting was right out of a spy novel. On Monday night, April 4, 1966, 33-year-old Lamar Hunt, founder of the American Football League and owner of the league's Kansas City Chiefs, flew into Dallas. He would take another flight to Houston to attend AFL meetings.

While waiting for his next flight, however, Hunt left the plane and walked quickly into the terminal. At the airport's towering statue of a Texas Ranger, he met 45-year-old Tex Schramm, president and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys of the rival National Football League. It was a secret rendezvous.

The two men shook hands, then walked into the darkness of the parking lot to Schramm's 1966 Oldsmobile. As they sat in the front seat of the car for half an hour, the Cowboys' general manager outlined the details of a plan—one that had the backing of NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle. The plan would prove critical for the future of pro football. Schramm proposed a merger of two bitter enemies—the AFL and the NFL.

Informal talks had gone on for six years, with no success, but this time Schramm was determined to have serious talks that would not fail. Bidding furiously against each other, the two leagues had spent a combined $7 million to sign 1966 draft choices, a small fortune at that time.

Hunt listened politely to Schramm's proposals and agreed to talk further. Then he flew to Houston.

Slightly more than two months and countless conversations later, the merger of the two leagues was announced on June 8. It was a remarkable end to six years of warfare—and Tex Schramm and Lamar Hunt deserve much of the credit for the final agreement that paved the way for the success of the NFL since.

Nearly 25 years after their secret meeting at the airport, Hunt, now 58, and Schramm, 70, agreed to relive those exhausting, but ultimately successful days and nights.

Incidentally, the name of that Dallas airport is Love Field.

Tex, what led you to initiate negotiations for a merger?

Schramm: "It became clear to me that something had to be done because the whole framework of professional football was being destroyed.

"What was basically happening in their league, and eventually in our league, was that players were no longer being drafted on their ability and potential. Instead, they were selected on whether or not they could be signed.

"The draft was the guts of our system. The weaker teams could get the better players and strengthen themselves. But the whole system was falling apart. Money was becoming more preeminent in signing a player than the draft was.

"In other words, the weaker teams were being forced to take lesser players, because they couldn't sign the better ones. So they wouldn't draft them in the first place. If they did draft them and couldn't sign them, they turned them over to the better teams, so the league wouldn't lose them.

"Some clubs were drafting players in the first round who normally would have been third- or fourth-round picks.

"Several teams in their league were winding up with *all* the players, and this was happening in our league, too. You can't have three or four great teams and the rest lousy ones. Once you take away the competitive aspect of the game, you destroy the package."

Hunt: "I believed a merger was desirable because the economics in pro football were not good for either side. I felt it would be a good thing if we could stabilize the sport.

"I also was prejudiced. I was looking at it from the AFL standpoint, and I wanted to see the AFL succeed more than anything. We needed stability. We needed for the public to know that our teams were going to succeed in the cities where they were located."

Were you surprised by Tex's phone call to set up that first meeting?

Hunt: "It wasn't a total surprise, because there had been merger conversations on an informal basis for a number of years, but in this case it was much further along than before."

What was different?

Schramm: "These talks involved an entirely new concept. The other ones wanted AFL teams, like Denver, to drop out. But in my proposal *all* AFL teams would still exist. That was what was critical."

How did the negotiation process start?

Schramm: "I felt that we had to do something. I called Dan Reeves [owner of the Los Angeles Rams], who I had worked with for ten years, and told him what my concept was and asked him whether or not he thought it could be done. After talking it over with Dan, I called Pete Rozelle.

"Pete said, 'Go ahead, give it a try.' I told him I would and that I would keep him advised as we went along."

Schramm and Rozelle agreed to keep the merger discussions confidential and only involve two NFL owners in the early stages, Wellington Mara of the New York Giants and Lou Spadia of the San Francisco 49ers, who were sharing New York and the Bay Area with AFL teams—the New York Jets and the Oakland Raiders. Schramm talked to both men, who expressed reservations but agreed that he should proceed further.

Schramm and Rozelle then decided to approach Hunt, who had founded the AFL in the summer of 1959, when he was only 27. Although his team was located in Kansas City, Hunt lived just a few blocks from Schramm in Dallas, which would prove convenient as the talks progressed.

Tex, why did you choose Lamar as your AFL counterpart in negotiations?

Schramm: "He *was* the league. He started it. I also thought he was the type of guy who would see a way to get it done."

Were the two of you optimistic at the start of negotiations?

Schramm: "I'm always an optimistic person if I start something."

Hunt: "I was cautiously optimistic, but these conversations had gone on informally for a number of years, even as early as 1960 [the AFL's first season], and I had no reason to think that these were going to be any more productive than the ones before.

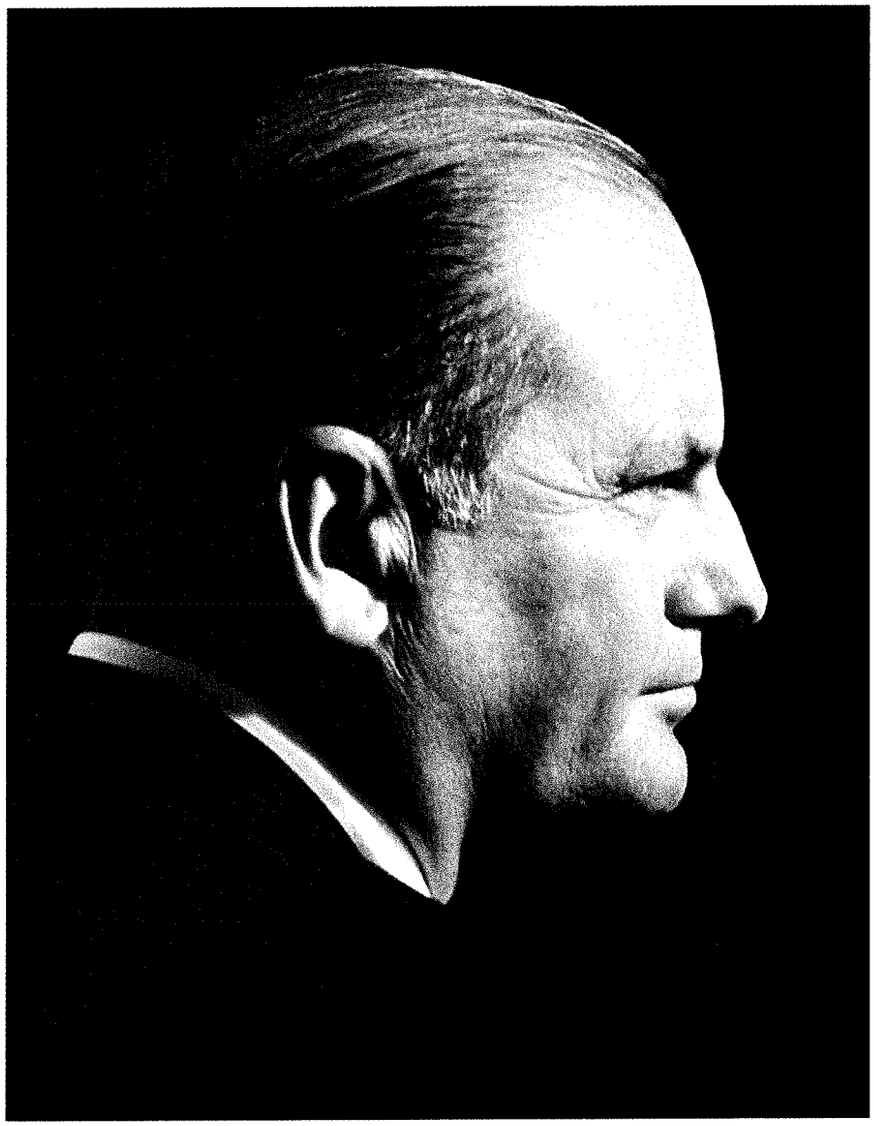
"The biggest stumbling block was the personal antagonism that had gone on for six years between the two leagues. There was a lot of distrust."

If talks had taken place before with no success, why did they ultimately succeed in 1966?

Hunt: "They were really quite different in 1966, because at that point the AFL had begun to prove to some people that it could stay alive.

"Our new TV contract with NBC, which began in 1965, was for escalating amounts of money, and it really insured that the AFL would stay in business. It was the most dramatic single development in regard to the competition of the two leagues. The first contract with ABC gave us some exposure, but the money was not large. The second one gave us the competitive ability to go and sign players, and it was much more stabilizing than the first one.

"But it was a chain reaction of things. Our success in New York was very, very important. The Jets had played in Shea Stadium since 1964—the best stadium in New York City—and in 1965 they signed Joe Namath and averaged about 55,000 [fans] a game paid. I think that convinced the NFL that, 'Hey, they're gonna make it in New York City. In fact, they have made it.' New York had appeared to be our real Achilles heel.



David Boss

Tex Schramm, then the Dallas Cowboys president and general manager, was the driving force behind the 1966 talks that led to the AFL-NFL merger.

"In addition, we had other new stadiums that were under construction, the Oakland Coliseum [which opened in 1966] and San Diego Stadium [1967]. I think the people in the NFL could see the handwriting on the wall."

Vernon Biever

NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle (left) and AFL founder Lamar Hunt socialized at Super Bowl IV. Rozelle reminisces about past Super Bowls in a story that begins on page 142.

Schramm: "With due respect to Lamar, I don't think the AFL's success had anything to do with it. What was happening was, both leagues were going to die. Our weaker teams could not compete."

But by 1966 you must have been convinced that the AFL was going to survive.

Schramm: "After they got their NBC contract, we were both going to go down the drain. They had nine teams, and we had fifteen, and we were going to be down to where we had maybe fourteen or fifteen total. Both leagues would be half leagues. That's what was already in the process."

As the discussions began, Schramm and Hunt agreed they should be kept confidential. In the NFL, Schramm discussed the potential merger only with Rozelle, Mara, and Spadia. In the AFL, Hunt didn't inform the other owners until early May. After that, he was part of a three-man committee that included Ralph Wilson, owner of the Buffalo Bills, and Billy Sullivan, owner of the New England Patriots.

A new force also was about to get involved in the relationship between the two leagues. At the AFL meetings in Houston, Joe Foss resigned as commissioner, and Al Davis, coach and general manager of the Raiders, was selected to replace him.

Was Davis part of the early discussions?

Hunt: "No. Al had just been hired as the commissioner, and the conversations we were having really were exploratory in nature. He was not involved in them. I didn't even keep him aware of what was going on. At a point where I let all the owners know what was going on, I let Al know.

"In early May, I told all the AFL owners that I had had discussions with Tex, and thought there was a chance for peace. There were a lot of doubters. 'Lamar,' they said, 'these conversations have gone on before.'

"That's when Ralph Wilson and Billy Sullivan were appointed to join me in maintaining contacts with Tex."

Hunt and Schramm met twice in early May at Hunt's home, and the talks progressed. On May 13, Schramm, Rozelle, Mara, and Spadia met to discuss the negotiations, with the two NFL owners continuing to express reservations. On Tuesday, May 17, at a meeting of all the NFL owners, Mara stunned everyone in both leagues by announcing that the Giants had signed Buffalo Bills kicker Pete Gogolak, who had played out his option. Up to that point, the two leagues largely had refrained from going after each other's players.

Within a few days, the AFL retaliated. Oakland signed Los Angeles Rams quarterback Roman Gabriel, and Houston came to terms with San Francisco quarterback John Brodie and Chicago Bears tight end Mike Ditka.

What was your immediate reaction to the signing of Gogolak?

Schramm: "We were pretty far along in the negotiations, but that almost ended the possibility of peace.

"Everybody knew it was dumb to start doing that, so it made some people in our league absolutely irate. Vince Lombardi, who was the Packers' chief operating officer and coach, had been long-time personal friends with the Giants, but he got very angry and had a famous explosion against them in one of our meetings. It caused a big fight in the league.

"It also gave Al Davis the open door to go out and start signing our players. That damn near blew the whole thing up because then everybody on both sides got mad."

Hunt: "The signing of Gogolak was a very negative thing because the AFL people who didn't want to have a merger said, 'Aha, they haven't been dealing in good faith.' It was a volatile thing, and you can imagine it certainly did a lot to discourage Ralph Wilson [whose team lost Gogolak] from believing the NFL people were sincere.

"The signing set people in the AFL in motion, specifically Al Davis, and Al devised his own plan to sign NFL players and began to implement that plan without consulting with the AFL ownership as a group. He talked to individual AFL clubs, and they began a recruiting campaign for NFL players."

Did that campaign come close to destroying the negotiations?

Schramm: "It did. My big problem was holding everybody in line. Lamar's big problem was telling them to lay off—to stop signing NFL players."

Hunt: "I think the merger ultimately was going to happen, but maybe the fact the signings were taking place helped speed the process up."

This obviously was a difficult time. As the man who started and pushed for the negotiations, Tex, did you ever despair that you wouldn't succeed?

Schramm: "That isn't my nature. If it gets tougher, I just try to figure a better way around it."

Ross Lewis

Several founding owners of the AFL posed with an AFL logo (held by the Chiefs' Lamar Hunt) a few years ago. Others (from left) included Ralph Wilson (Buffalo), Wayne Valley (Oakland), and Billy Sullivan (Boston).

Despite the heated atmosphere, merger talks proceeded. On the last day of the NFL meetings, Rozelle informed all of the owners of the possibility of a deal. He and Schramm stayed in contact with them the rest of the month, trying in particular to relieve the fears of the Giants and 49ers about the Jets and Raiders joining the NFL.

Hunt had his own problems with Sonny Werblin and Wayne Valley, owners of the Jets and Raiders, who were just as concerned about sharing their areas with the Giants and 49ers in a merged league.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, Rozelle flew to Dallas and stayed at Schramm's house, and the two men, calling NFL owners on the phone, put together a revised list of proposals for the AFL. They gave the list to Hunt on the morning of May 31. If the proposals could be accepted by the AFL owners without too many changes, the merger might become reality.

The AFL countered with a list of 26 points of difference, and negotiations resumed.

Lamar, as difficult as the negotiations were, did you usually get along?

Hunt: "Yes, our meetings—and we had many other conversations on the phone—were amicable.

"One evening, I even got Ralph Wilson and Billy Sullivan on extension phone lines just so they could hear Tex's sincerity for themselves. They had felt that the NFL people were just leading me on."

Schramm: "It was a very, very emotional thing with everybody by that time. And, when you were trying to resolve the problems, it could be trying.

"We both had the difficulty of trying to sell to our leagues whatever we were going to be agreeing to. And he had the biggest problem because we were in essence dictating the terms."

Lamar, how did you resolve all of the differences at the end? You couldn't talk to each AFL owner as each point was discussed.

Hunt: "Wilson, Sullivan, and I hammered out the final details. We were free to resolve issues at the end; we never had total formal agreement among the AFL on all of them. If it always took everybody's approval, you'd have an impasse.

"Ultimately, everybody said, 'Hey, our individual feelings don't make that much difference. The important thing is to work out an arrangement that's really good for everybody.'

"The issues that we had the hardest time with were points

relative to New York and San Francisco/Oakland. I have several pages of notes from my May 31 meeting with Tex, and it's flabbergasting. Over half of my notes are related to New York and the Bay Area.

"But at some point Sonny Werblin [Jets] and Wayne Valley [Raiders] said, 'Okay, we'll go ahead with you.'"

All the points of disagreement were ironed out during many, many intense phone conversations and meetings the first week of June—and on June 8, at a press conference in New York, the merger of the AFL and NFL was announced. Major points of the agreement included:

1. *All existing franchises would remain in the same cities.*
2. *Rozelle would be commissioner of the combined league.*
3. *There would be a championship game between the two leagues after the 1966 season.*
4. *There would be a common draft after the 1966 season.*
5. *The two leagues would continue their current TV contracts for the four years each of them had left, and keep their own income.*
6. *Interleague preseason games would be played, beginning in 1967. A common regular-season schedule would begin in 1970.*
7. *AFL clubs would pay the NFL a total of $18 million over 20 years.*

Lamar, was the NFL's demand for that money a problem in the negotiations?

Hunt: "It was definitely a conversational point. But ultimately, as a group, we agreed to it. We recognized that it increased the value of our franchises by more than $2 million, which was the amount each of our nine teams paid. The payout was spread over 20 years, or $100,000 a year.

"We assumed that all the NFL teams shared the money, and there was never any breakdown given until a month or more after the merger was announced. Then I became aware that the Giants were getting $10 million of it and the 49ers $8 million."

As the years passed, it must have seemed strange to keep paying that money. Was it all paid?

Hunt: "Yes. We just considered it a long, slow note."

Was negotiating the merger one of the most fulfilling things you've ever done?

Schramm: "It was a landmark, one of the big steps, yes."

Hunt: "I think history has proved that it was a wise decision. Pro football—and that includes the compensation to the players and the prosperity of the teams—came into a new, golden era.

"And there were a lot of things that came out of the merger that weren't there before—like the Super Bowl and the preseason games between the two leagues, which for a period of five or six years were very big revenue producers.

"I'm glad we merged. But I will always think of it as the AFL versus the NFL. We still keep track of the American-National rivalry and always will."

After all these years? The final merger was 20 years ago.

Hunt: "Every Monday, I check to see how the American Conference teams did against the National Conference. I keep a running total of the games won and lost for each week.

"You're more than welcome to print how far ahead the AFL is because the AFL is leading in combined preseason and regular-season games. Super Bowls are tied 12-12."

Schramm: "I still keep track, too. They're still the AFL. They're the other league.

"The only reason they're anywhere close to the NFC is all of their wins came from the three teams we gave them—Pittsburgh, Baltimore [now Indianapolis], and Cleveland."

Hunt: "I knew you'd bring that up. Heck, once a team comes over, you can't count it on the other side."

Ron St. Angelo

Hunt (left) and Schramm revisited the statue of the Texas Ranger at the Dallas airport in November, 1990—the same place where their merger talks began.

THE PIONEERS

Truly the Biggest Game

The NFL's Commissioner of 29 Years Remembers Super Bowls Past

By Pete Rozelle

A few years ago, I was having dinner with Bill Granholm, a wonderful man who worked with me for decades—first with the Los Angeles Rams and then in the NFL offices. The owners had just had a rather stormy session about the future site of some Super Bowl or other. It seemed as if everything connected with the game had assumed monumental proportions.

I remember Granny picking up his cocktail, shaking his head, and saying, "Do you believe this? Do you believe this has gotten so big?"

I said "No" then and I'll say it again now. Except today it's even bigger. The stakes are even higher. For Super Bowl XXV, ABC is getting $850,000 for one 30-second commercial! I don't care what kind of financial numbers you're used to, that's a staggering amount.

CBS and NBC both televised the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game (it wasn't called the Super Bowl then). CBS charged $85,000 a *minute* for commercials, NBC $75,000.

Assuming ABC sells out all commercial spots for XXV—which seems like a safe assumption because every game so far has—the total likely will be somewhere around $43 million.

The reason it sells out is that there is no game, no event, no show of any kind that annually reaches a larger audience than the Super Bowl. Maybe three out of four Americans, plus millions more elsewhere, are watching.

No, I never thought it would get this big. I never thought it *could* get this big, mostly because, well, I guess because it never occurred to us back in the 1960s.

Of course, we knew that a matchup of the champions of the National Football League and the American Football League would be a big game. We knew—or I guess we *hoped*—that the public would be eager to see such a square-off.

But then we got our comeuppance in the first Super Bowl when there were roughly 32,000 empty seats in the Los Angeles Coliseum. We're talking about almost 35 percent of the seats in a 94,000-seat stadium! Nine years before, in 1958, when I was general manager of the Los Angeles Rams, we averaged nearly 85,000 per game and had crowds of more than 100,000 for our games against the Baltimore Colts and Chicago Bears. (The Coliseum had a seating capacity of 102,000 in the 1950s.)

Fortunately, those were the last empty seats we have had for a Super Bowl. It's now the most coveted ticket for any event in America.

After that first game, I remember we had a meeting to discuss the possible reasons why we hadn't sold out. A lot of people thought it was the price of the tickets. We had the tickets scaled at $12, $10, and $6. It's all relative, I know, but for the last five years, most game tickets have been priced at $100 or more. Some people resell them for 10, 20, even 30 times face value and they get it.

So we got a dose of reality in that first game. We

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worked hard—we had tried everything to sell seats. It was difficult to explain.

Two weeks before game I, both the AFL Championship Game in Buffalo and the NFL Championship Game in Dallas had sold out. Both the visiting teams—the Kansas City Chiefs of the AFL and the Green Bay Packers of the NFL—had won that day, setting up a game between the best teams from each league.

We couldn't have asked for a more attractive matchup, or more superstars on two teams, or two more colorful coaches—Hank Stram, the Chiefs' bantam rooster, and Vince Lombardi, the Packers' strongman.

In all my 29 years as Commissioner, except for George Halas, I was never closer to a head coach than I was to Vince Lombardi. I know it's a cliche to say that someone is a real man, but it must have been invented for Vince Lombardi. He was so strong, so powerful, so intelligent.

After the Packers outlasted the Cowboys 34-27 in the NFL Championship Game on New Year's Day two weeks before Super Bowl I, I gave Vince a call in Green Bay. He was adamant about wanting to stay in Green Bay, to practice there until the Friday or Saturday before the Super Bowl, and then fly out. I told him he couldn't do that, that he *had* to spend the seven days or so before the game in southern California. I thought it would help sell tickets.

The Packers spent the six days before the game in Santa Barbara, and I have to say that I never saw Vince Lombardi more anxious than he was that week. The man had won four NFL championships to that point, his teams had played in five title games and countless other big games. And I *know* he never felt the pressure like that.

Vince knew that not only did his own ownership expect him to win, but there were 13 other NFL owners who had the same kind of emotional investment.

I was pleased that it was a close game for more than a half. I think we all feared that it might be a one-sided blowout. I was very happy with the 35-10 result.

Vince knew that not only did his own ownership expect him to win, but there were 13 other NFL owners who had the same kind of emotional investment.

Chuck Ren

I honestly can say that there are only three Super Bowls in which I was rooting—silently, of course—for a team. I wanted the Packers to win in both Super Bowls I and II because my NFL loyalties still were strong. And I wanted the Steelers to win in Super Bowl IX for the sake of the finest, most decent man I ever knew apart from my own father–Art Rooney.

Super Bowl II between the Packers and the Oakland Raiders was played in Miami (we played three games there in four years—II, III, and V), and Vince told me before the game that it would be his last as Packers head coach.

I guess the reality of that decision never sunk in with me because I remember being just as surprised—maybe disappointed—as everyone else when he announced his decision to step down a few weeks after the game.

The biggest stories before Super Bowl II were the rumors that he was going to quit. He never told the team directly, although he came close to breaking down in one pregame meeting, so I think they suspected it very strongly.

Like the first game, it was fairly close for a half, but the Packers came on strong in the third quarter, just as they had in January, 1967, and won 33-14.

Then came the one that I like to call the Magic Game. Game III between the Jets and the Colts not only put the Super Bowl on the map, it made it a permanent part of the American sports and entertainment consciousness.

The funny thing was that even though we had sold out game II in Miami fairly easily, we didn't sell out game III until just a few minutes before game time.

Of course, that was the game when Joe Namath went to a dinner a few days before, and, in a speech, "guaranteed" a victory over the heavily favored Baltimore team.

Even for those radical days, Joe was a pretty radical guy—one of the first players to wear his hair long, the first to wear white shoes. He was flamboyant, anti-establishment, a character.

Before Super Bowl I, I think our "party" was nothing more than cold cuts at the Statler Hilton.

I really did not care who won the game, but I was hoping against hope that we would have a close game. The Packers had won the first games by 25 and 19 points, and the Colts were favored by 18.

After Namath and the Jets prevailed 16-7, the NFL owners were very upset, of course. It was crushing for the old-line club people. But I was secretly pleased because I realized that this shocking turn of events was going to do nothing but help pro football.

It didn't take a brain surgeon to figure out that the Jets' victory was going to mushroom interest in our game. At that point, the merger that would be implemented after the next season was all set. By winning, the Jets proved the AFL teams belonged. Of course, as you might suspect, I never attempted to sell that logic to Carroll Rosenbloom, then the Colts' owner!

Super Bowl IV in January, 1970, at New Orleans, was the last game between the two leagues. In the 1970 season, the merger would be officially completed with realignment into two conferences.

The Vikings looked like the best team in football, but a lot of insiders said not to underestimate Hank Stram's Chiefs, who were big, fast, and talented. I thought Minnesota would win, but again, all I really wanted was a close game. Shows you what I know. It wasn't really a close game—and it was the Chiefs who won, 23-7.

For the first two years, the game officially had that unwieldy handle, the AFL-NFL World Championship Game. That was my idea. I guess coming up with catchy names wasn't something I was very good at.

Some of the press was calling it the Super Bowl from the start, but I never liked the name. To me, "super" was a corny cliche word that we used during my school days at Compton High in California in the 1940s.

The actual source of "Super" in the Super Bowl name had originated a few years before with the daughter of Lamar Hunt, the Chiefs' owner. At that time, a popular, faddish children's toy was something called a "Super Ball," which bounced dramatically higher than a regular rubber ball. Lamar's daughter had one of those balls, and he liked the name—the twist of "Super Ball" to "Super Bowl"—and he urged that we adopt it. Thankfully, we did, and game III was the first official Super Bowl.

I'm the first to admit that I was mistaken about the name of the game. "Super" takes on a different connotation when it is applied to this event. I think the name has played a big part in the game's success.

For me, there was great sadness going into Super Bowl V. In September, just before the start of the 1970 season, Vince Lombardi died after a devastating battle with cancer. Vince was 13 years older than me, but it was like losing a brother. I miss him to this day. Fittingly, the Super Bowl Trophy—that magnificent creation of Tiffany & Co.—officially was renamed the Vince Lombardi Trophy before Super Bowl VI.

Coming from a public relations background, one of my great pleasures in pro football was dealing with the media. This was especially true at the Super Bowl, particularly at the early games.

Nowadays, thousands of media people from around the world cover the game, and the closest the commissioner gets to these people is at the giant Friday noon press conference where there's a bank of TV cameras, hundreds of still photographers, and many hundreds of press, radio, and TV representatives. But in those first few years, my contacts with the media were pretty special.

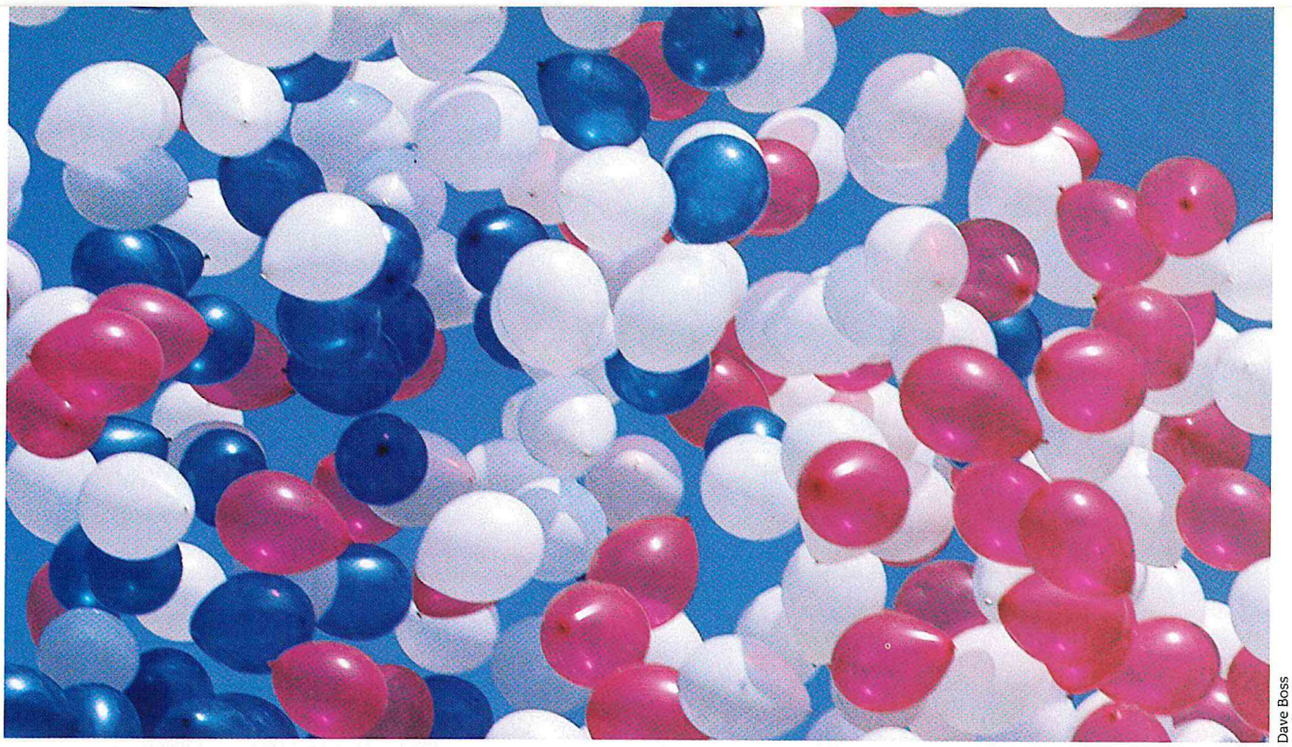
I remember sitting around shooting the breeze with six, seven, eight writers at a time. It seemed to be less serious then, more fun. The game was serious, of course, but that didn't prevent us from kidding around. I have great memories of early sessions with John Steadman from Baltimore, Bob Oates from Los Angeles, Mo Siegel from Washington, Larry Felser from Buffalo, and others.

A lot of things were different in those younger days than they are today. In the early years, for example, we had no Super Bowl Site Committee the way we do now. We basically just went with our instincts—and usually that meant Los Angeles, Miami, or New Orleans. The only deviation from those cities the first 15 years was in game VIII, when we played in Rice Stadium in Houston.

The only time I can recall having some reservations about the game site was when we went back to Los Angeles in game VII. Honestly, it took some courage to go back to my hometown after all the empty seats in game I, but I guess by that time we had more confidence in the game as a major event. This time we sold out the Coliseum, the major attraction being whether the Miami Dolphins could complete a perfect 17-0 season (they did).

We always have had a function of some kind for the media, and for all the people from the clubs and the league the Friday night before the game, but this didn't have the significance in the early years that it did later. In fact, before Super Bowl I, I think our "party" was nothing more than cold cuts at the Statler Hilton.

To borrow the trademark phrase of the late Ed Sullivan, I think the first *really big show* we had was at Super Bowl VII in January, 1973. A couple years before, the city of Long Beach had purchased the storied



Dave Boss

Like many of us, Rozelle is an admitted sucker for Super Bowl pageantry—from balloons to doves, and from jets to Rockettes.

ocean liner, the *Queen Mary*, and had turned it into a major tourist attraction. We used the entire ship as a site for our party.

We have had some wonderful Friday night parties over the years, including some great ones in New Orleans, a party city on its own. If I had to pick a personal favorite, however, it would be the one we had before Super Bowl XXI in Los Angeles at Universal City. Being on the Universal lot in a movie studio environment was very exciting for many of the visitors.

I'm a real sucker for pageantry. I always liked balloons and balloon releases. In the early years, we also had a lot of pigeon or dove releases. I liked those, too. The fly-overs that we initiated at Super Bowl VI in New Orleans—and continued at most other outdoor Super Bowls after that—also were a big thrill.

I always was involved in our plans for pregame and halftime festivities because it seemed important to me that we make the entire *event* very special. But I usually let other people pick the person or people who would do the National Anthem. The one time I insisted on an anthem person was at game XXII when I wanted Herb Alpert to do a "pure" horn version.

Three games in New Orleans—IX, XV, and XX—stand out to me for different reasons.

Game IX was the Steelers' first appearance in an NFL Championship Game of any kind after more than four decades of frustration. I am not ashamed to admit that I had tears of joy in my eyes when I presented the trophy to Art Rooney that January, 1975, day. No man ever deserved it more. Of course, I didn't realize at the time that he was going to get greedy and win three more (X, XIII, and XIV)!

On the morning of January 25, 1981, the day of game XV, I remember waking up in my room at the Hyatt-Regency in New Orleans and seeing a big yellow ribbon our people had put up around the Superdome with bows above the exits. If you remember, people had been wearing yellow ribbons in support of the hostages in Iran, and those hostages were released in Tehran just a few days before Super Sunday.

Game XX between the Bears and the Patriots was memorable for a lot of reasons, most of them generated by the very colorful Bears. The sadness was that George Halas was not there to see this great victory; my good friend and an NFL founder had died two years before.

I recall my daughter Anne Marie coming back from an evening in the French Quarter wearing a "ROZELLE" headband. Late in the 1985 regular season, I had to order Bears quarterback Jim McMahon to stop wearing commercial headbands, and he reacted to this by wearing a headband with my name on it in the playoffs. Versions of that headband were big sellers in the city the week before the game.

One of the toughest trophy presentations I had to make was to Al Davis after the Raiders' 38-9 rout of Washington in Super Bowl XVIII in January, 1984. We had been enmeshed in a court battle with Al over the Raiders' move to Los Angeles in 1982. As I was leaving the room, Raiders guard Mickey Marvin tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Not everyone here hates you." That eased the pressure.

All in all, it's been a great ride—from Super Bowl I through my last game as Commissioner in XXIII to now. I wish I could literally release some balloons and doves at this point, and maybe even arrange for a fly-over for everyone reading this. You'll have to use your imagination, however. Or better, like me, keep dreaming Super Bowl dreams.

SPOTLIGHT XXV

San Francisco 49ers owner Edward J. DeBartolo, Jr. (left), and head coach George Seifert accept the Vince Lombardi Trophy after their club's Super Bowl XXIV win over the Broncos.

The Making of the Vince Lombardi Trophy

Photographs by Tom Croke
Text by Jim Gigliotti

If you think handmade craftsmanship has gone the way of two-way players, leather helmets, and the Single Wing, consider the making of the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

This beautifully constructed trophy is the ultimate symbol of NFL team achievement, and is presented annually by the NFL commissioner to the owner and head coach of the Super Bowl champion.

Each year, a new trophy literally is hand-crafted from start to finish by the silver-making department of Tiffany & Co., which still does things the old-fashioned way. In other words, nothing is automated.

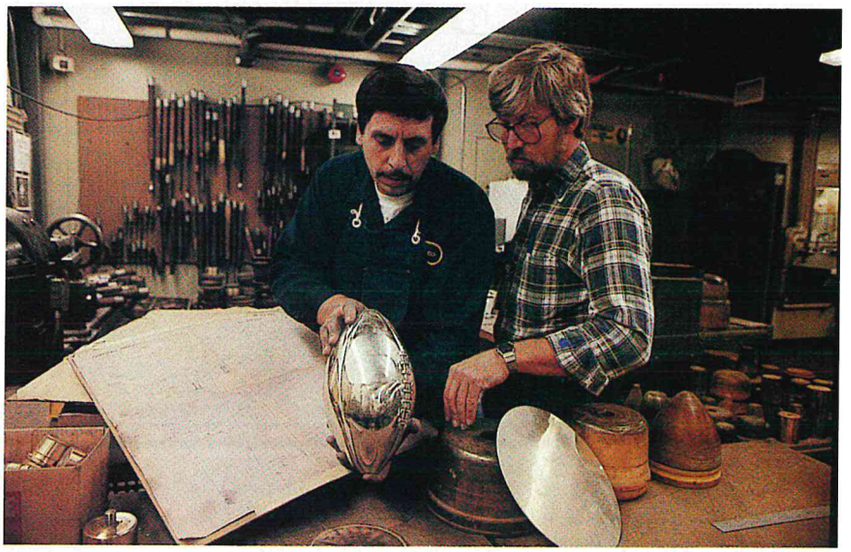
The four-step process includes spinning, silversmithing, chasing, and finishing, and it's all done over a four-month period by Tiffany's highly skilled craftsmen.

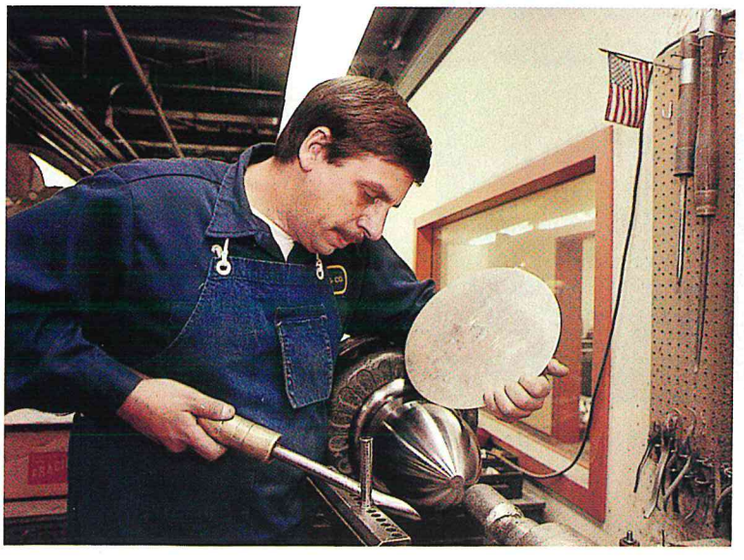
The result is a 7-pound, 21-inch high trophy constructed solely of sterling silver (including nuts and bolts). The trophy itself is a stylized, regulation-sized football atop a tapering, elongated base of three concave sides.

Designed in 1966 by Tiffany & Co. vice president Oscar Reidener, the trophy was named for the legendary Green Bay head coach in late 1970. Lombardi, who had led the Packers to victories in the first two Super Bowls, died of cancer in September of that year at age 57.

An overview of the silver-making workshop at Tiffany & Co. Each part of the four-step process takes place under this one roof. The trophy is made virtually by hand from beginning to end.

Bill Testa (left) and plant foreman Carsten von Brockdorff discuss plans for completing the Lombardi Trophy. The original sketches for the trophy were hastily drawn on a cocktail napkin, and blueprints were made upon revision. A new trophy is made annually, one year in advance of the game, thus effectively providing a backup. This year's backup trophy most likely will serve as the trophy for Super Bowl XXVI.





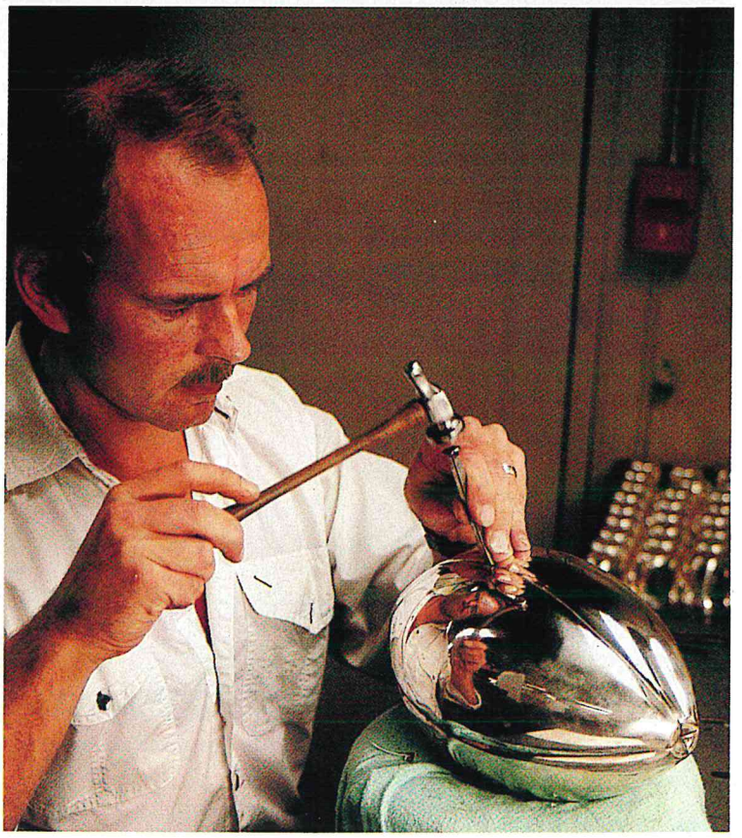
The trophy is crafted in two parts, the football and the base. In the spinning department, the football is formed to the proper shape in two sections over a metal form called a chuck. Testa completes the process using special tools custom-made by the spinner himself (left). A band of silver will be soldered inside the rim of one half of the football, thus allowing the other half to join it securely. The band also aligns the trophy for soldering to the base.

The tapered base begins as three flat pieces of silver. Silversmith Joe Laczko hand-hammers the sheets over a stake (left). The three pieces eventually become the triangular stand on which the football rests.

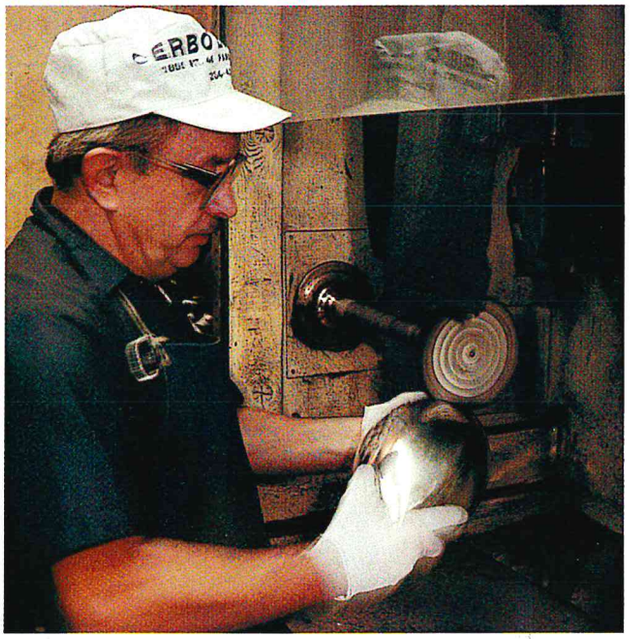
The base is engraved with the words "Vince Lombardi Trophy," "Super Bowl," and "AFC vs. NFC." It also includes the NFL shield, which Laczko saws out by hand (above). After the game, the trophy is returned to Tiffany for engraving of the team names and score, and, if requested, the winning team's roster.

Like every other element in manufacturing of the trophy, the laces are cut and formed by hand. Laczko (above) puts the finishing touches on the laces.

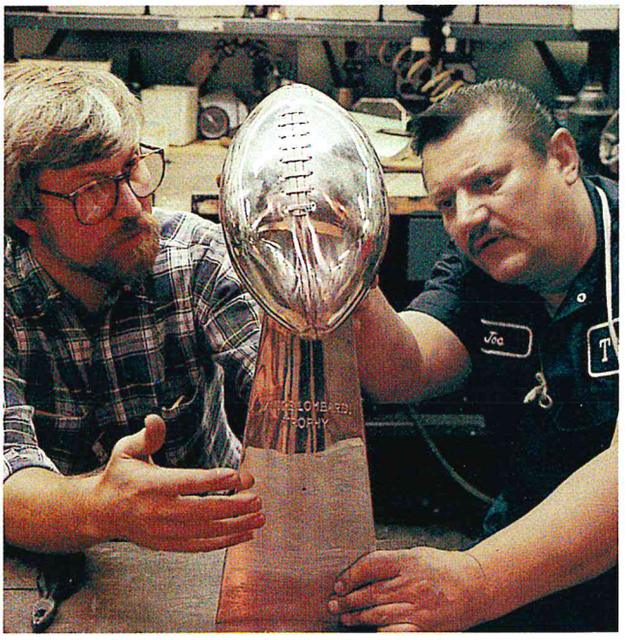
Before the football is attached to the base, Laczko solders together the three sheets that form the triangular stand. Note the wires that hold the three sides exactly in position.



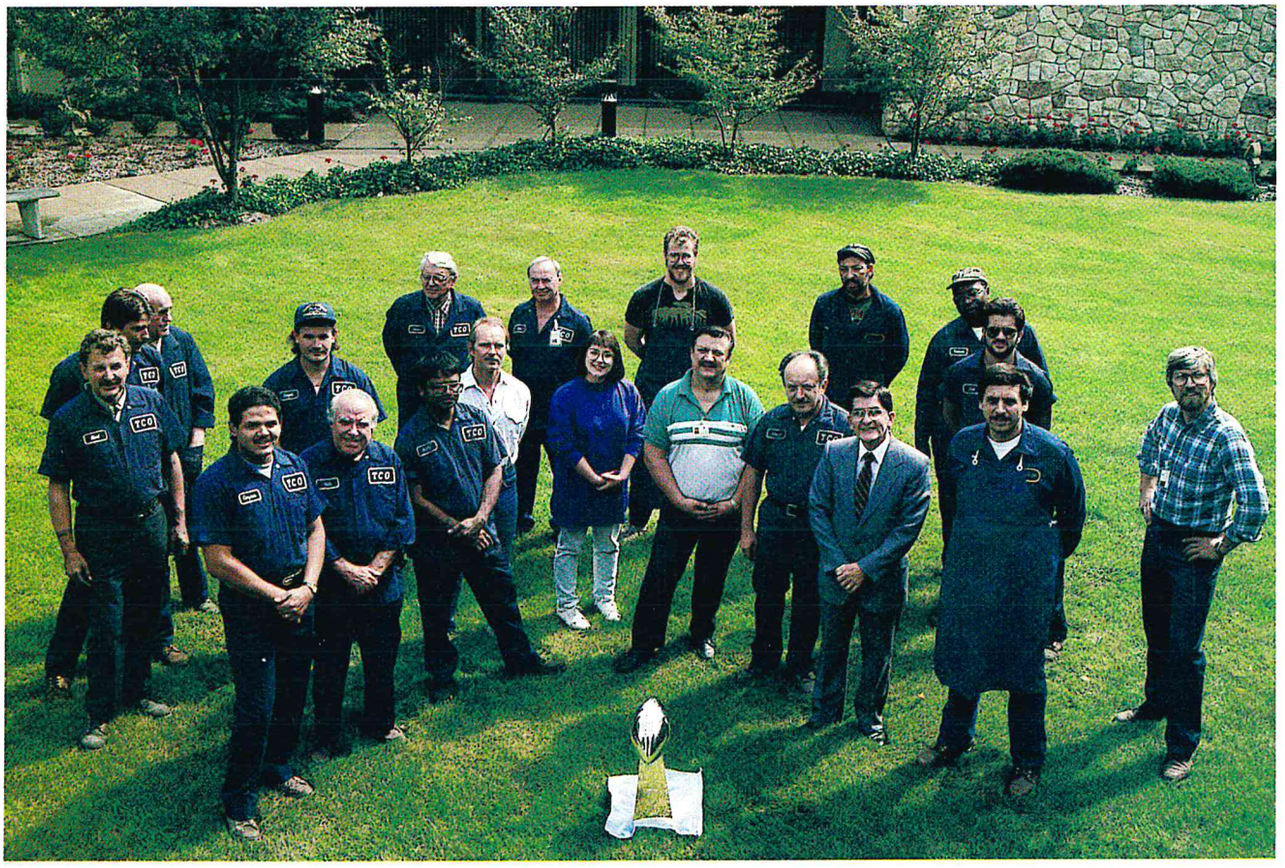
Alan Jones is one of the few hand chasers left in America. Jones (right) uses a sharp liner tool to form the seams of the trophy and finish ornamentation.



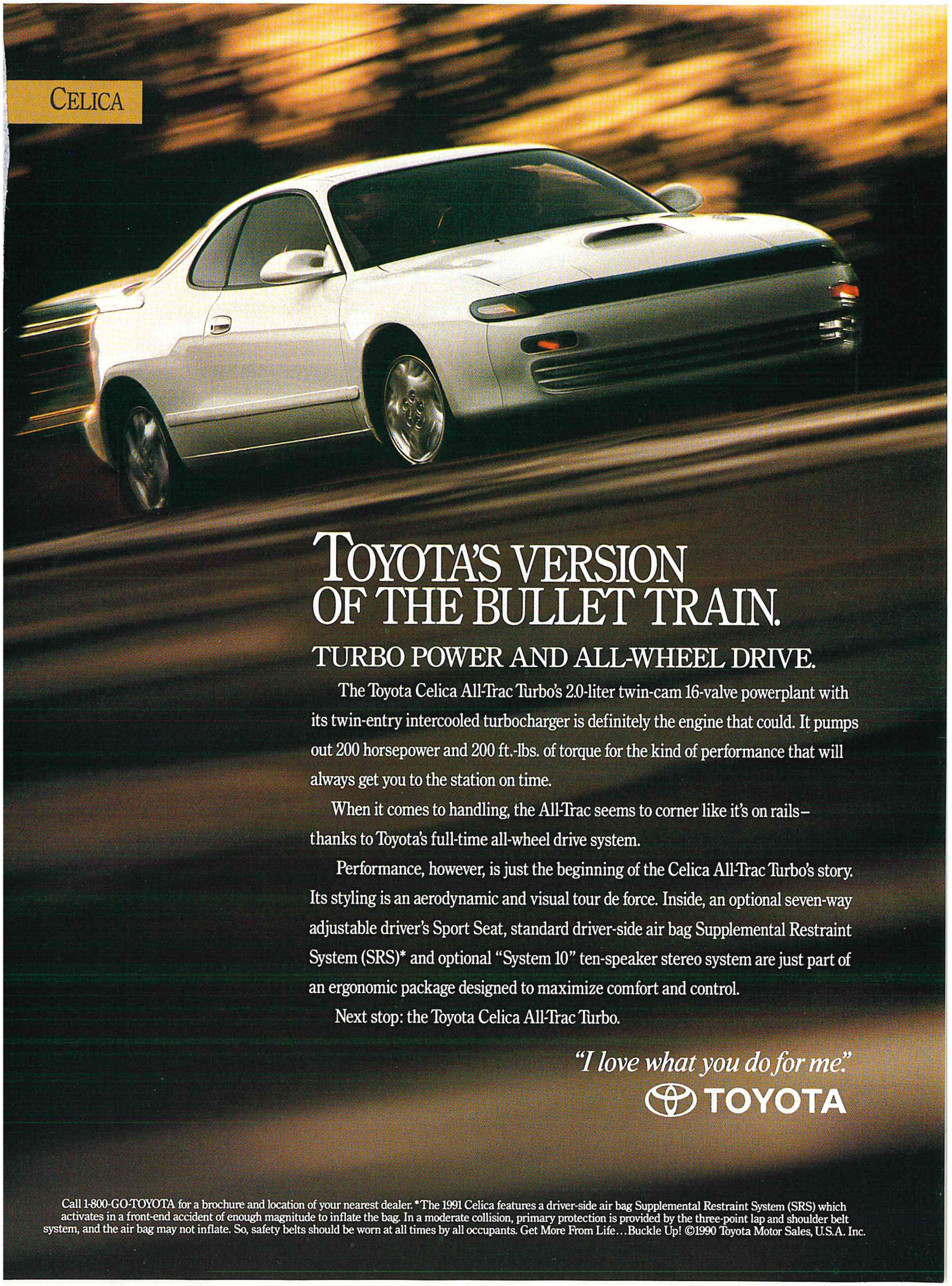
Horst Kasner polishes the football in the finishing department. After the game, following engraving of the team names and score, the trophy is polished and refurbished to its original condition.



Von Brockdorff and Laczko complete final assembly of the trophy (above). A threaded rod runs through the stand and is screwed into the football, securing the two components.



Tiffany & Co.'s silver-making department poses with the completed trophy outside its New Jersey workshop.



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Performance, however, is just the beginning of the Celica All-Trac Turbo's story. Its styling is an aerodynamic and visual tour de force. Inside, an optional seven-way adjustable driver's Sport Seat, standard driver-side air bag Supplemental Restraint System (SRS)* and optional "System 10" ten-speaker stereo system are just part of an ergonomic package designed to maximize comfort and control.

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SPOTLIGHT XXV

If It Isn't One Dynasty, It's Another

By Phil Barber

The Steelers and 49ers Have Combined to Win Half of the Last 16 Super Bowls

The Dalai Lamas have been the spiritual and temporal leaders of Tibetan Buddhists for the last 600 years. Actually, Tibetans would explain that *one* Dalai Lama has reigned for the last six centuries, but has inhabited 14 distinct bodies. When a Dalai Lama dies, a search for his new incarnation begins soon after. Potential boy candidates born 49 days to two years after the previous master's death are shown some of his personal belongings shuffled with similar objects, and the child who remembers the items "as his own" is hailed as the next Lama.

With a little—okay, a lot of—imagination, one might make an analogy to the National Football League. During the 1970s, the Pittsburgh Steelers reigned supreme in the NFL. They were, in retrospect, dominant enough to wear a dynasty label with no embarrassment. But nothing lasts forever. After Pittsburgh won its fourth Super Bowl title in January, 1980, the team began to fray at the edges. The stars aged, then retired, and the Steelers receded into the crowd.

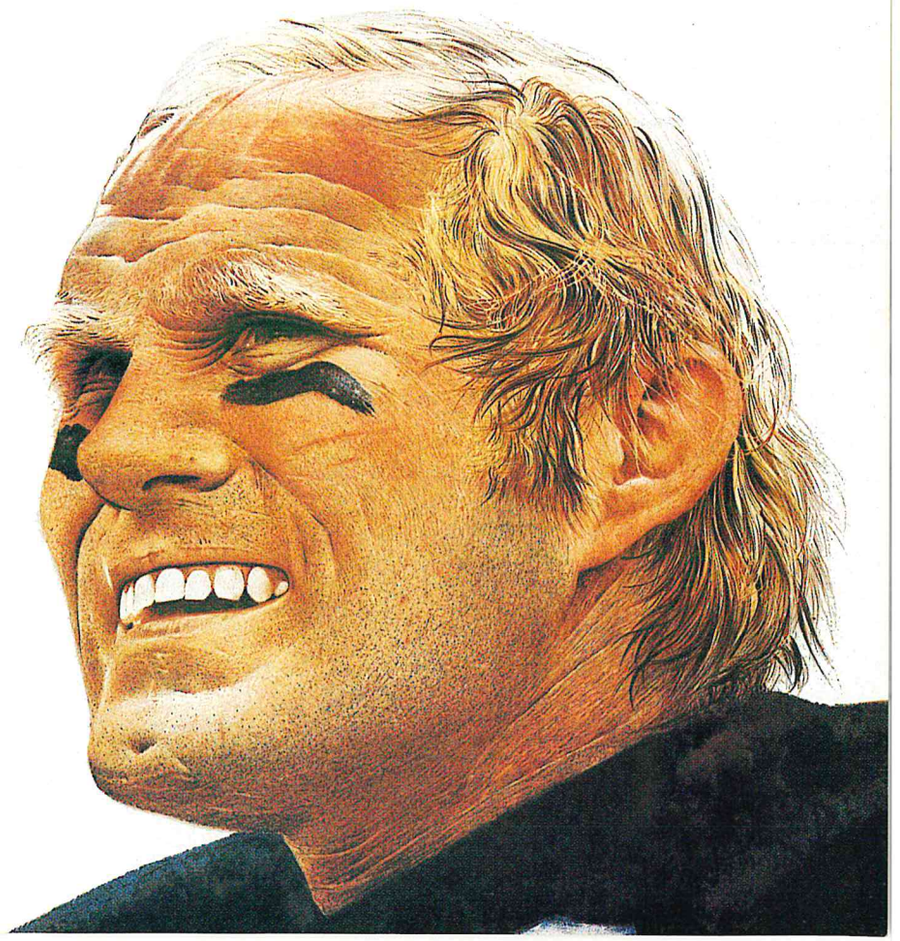
But as that dynasty expired, interesting things started to happen across the nation, in San Francisco. The 49ers began the 1980s as precocious overachievers, but grew into a frighteningly efficient package over the decade. Along the way, they supplanted the Steelers as the NFL's team of dynasty. And the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth continues.

Chuck Noll's Pittsburgh teams of the 1970s and the Bill Walsh/George Seifert 49ers of the 1980s (and beyond) were thoroughbred horses of different colors. They not only played different brands of football, they were built and maintained in contrasting fashions.

As they emerged as a football powerhouse, the Steelers flourished like an organic entity. (A rose or a fern just wouldn't fit the Steel Curtain of Jack Lambert and Mean Joe Greene—let's say they were an oak tree.) The Steelers grew from a seed, blossomed in magnificent glory for a few years, then quietly wilted.

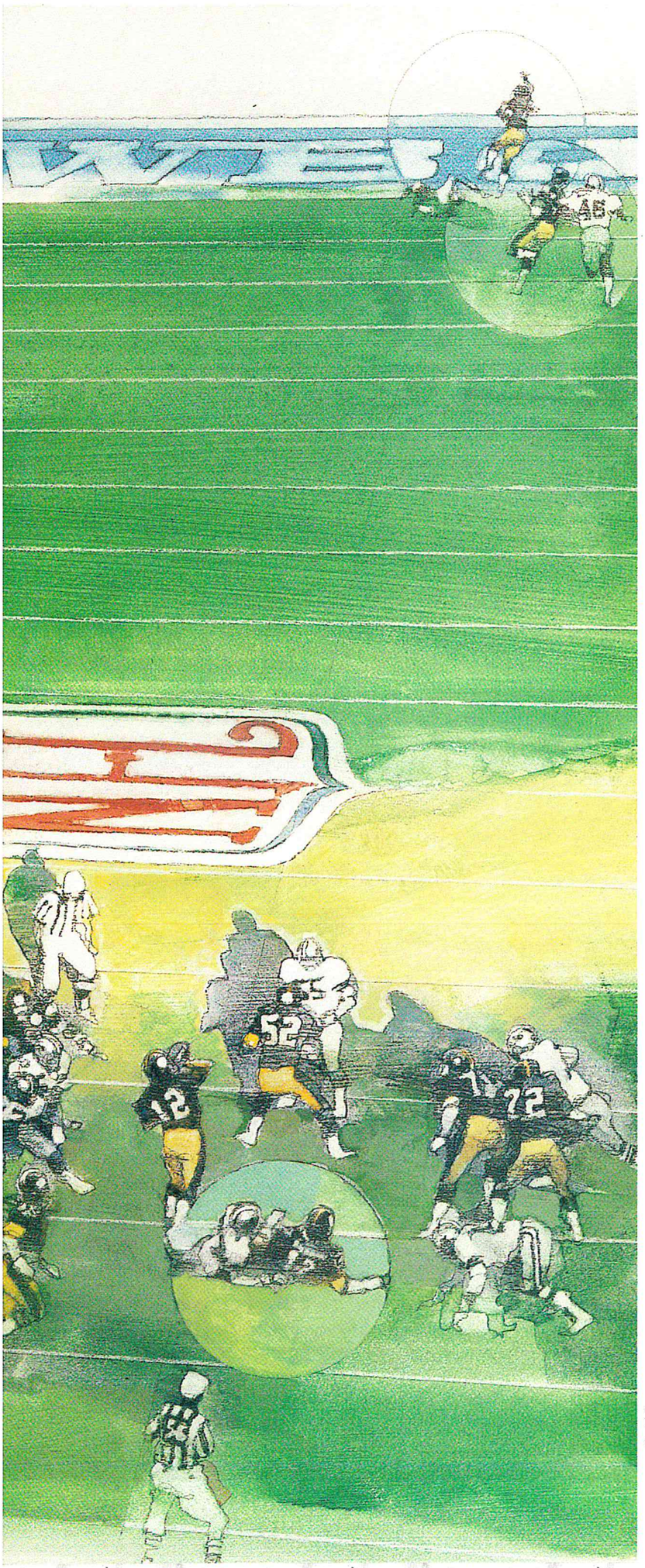
The 49ers, on the other hand, are more akin to a machine, say a luxury automobile. The basic components were built by Walsh at an early stage, but the team has enjoyed a continual process of repair, with an added part here and a little tune-up there, and thus has maintained its efficiency over an extended period of time. No one is

Once considered the weak link in his team's offense, Terry Bradshaw (below) led Pittsburgh to four Super Bowl titles in six years.



Joe Montana (opposite), the only player ever to win three Super Bowl MVP awards, has been one of the few constants during San Francisco's10-year reign.

Merv Corning



David Grove

Bradshaw-to-Lynn Swann was the combination most responsible for sinking the Cowboys in X and XIII, two of the best-played Super Bowls. Swann and John Stallworth gave the Steelers a deep passing game as good as any in the league in the 1970s.

DYNASTY

quite sure at this point how long the 49ers' machine will continue to run, but there are a lot of NFL competitors out there hoping for a breakdown.

The amazing thing about Noll's Steelers is that you almost can discuss the four championship teams as if they were one. Twenty players suited up for all four Super Bowls, and nine of those players were four-time starters. The entire backfield of Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris, and Rocky Bleier was there for the Super duration. And it was a franchise built from within. When the Steelers emerged from their locker room for Super Bowl XIV, 45 players took the field—and none of them ever had played for another NFL team. Pittsburgh had drafted 39 of the 45, and had signed 6 as free agents out of college.

The core of the 49ers of the 1980s—quarterback Joe Montana, defensive back Ronnie Lott, wide receiver Jerry Rice, and running back Roger Craig—also came via the draft, but the club profited from a series of trades (wide receiver Freddie Solomon, defensive linemen Fred Dean and Manu Tuiasosopo, running back Wendell Tyler, and quarterback Steve Young, to name a prominent few) and astute free-agent signings (linebackers Jack Reynolds, Michael Walter, and Matt Millen). Dean and Reynolds, in particular, were critical to San Francisco's first title drive in 1981. By the way, only five 49ers players played in all four Super Bowls.

On the field, the two teams hardly could have been less alike. The Steelers, especially during their first two Super Bowl drives, were the remnants of an older era. To get to Super Bowl IX (a 16-6 victory over Minnesota) and Super Bowl X (21-17 over Dallas), they ran the ball between the tackles with great consistency ("The Steelers trap you getting off the bus," one NFL head coach said in 1978), passed as little as possible, and crushed the opposition with perhaps the greatest defense ever assembled.

Retired NFL offensive coordinators still must be haunted by the memory of that defense, which annually ranked among the NFL leaders in points allowed, yards allowed, and sacks. The 1978 defense didn't allow a first-quarter touchdown until the last play of the opening quarter in Super Bowl XIII, and the 1976 team, the best Pittsburgh team not to reach the Super Bowl, recorded five shutouts in its last eight games. The 1974 defense yielded 29 rushing yards (on 21 carries) to Oakland in the AFC title game, then surrendered 17 (on 21 attempts) to Minnesota in Super Bowl IX. It isn't hard to figure out how they did it when you see that 8 of 11 starters were voted to the Pro Bowl in 1975.

Not that Noll and his staff did nothing more than line 'em up and let 'em play. Assistant coach George Perles installed a 4-3 stunt alignment that worked wonders for the 1975 team. Both offense and defense, in fact, were simple but well-coached. "They developed a great trapping game," says Walsh, who pre-

pared for the Steelers twice a year as a Cincinnati offensive assistant from 1970-75. "They had a counter run to the weakside, for example, that only Franco could run. They did things that really enhanced the players' ability to reach their potential, no question."

The Steelers' passing game had made great strides by the time the team won back-to-back championships in Super Bowls XIII (35-31 over Dallas) and XIV (31-19 over the Los Angeles Rams), but it was an old-fashioned passing game that relied on a very strong quarterback, Bradshaw, throwing deep passes to his fine wide receivers, Lynn Swann and John Stallworth.

The 49ers, in contrast, sported an offense previously unseen in the NFL. True, Walsh borrowed offensive strategies from the Raiders' Al Davis, who likewise had borrowed them from Sid Gillman, the guru of modern-era passing, but Walsh's continual refinements made his system virtually unstoppable.

Montana doesn't have a particularly strong arm, but the incomparable Jerry Rice (below) is adept at turning 8-yard slants into 75-yard touchdowns.

He gained notoriety for the practice of compiling a game's first 25 plays, in order, a day or more before the opening kickoff, and he had a penchant for eleventh-hour inspiration. In preparing for Super Bowl XVI, the 49ers added two plays and a formation during the week of the game: a hard squib kickoff (Tuesday), a medium pass to backup wide receiver Mike Wilson (Wednesday), and an unbalanced offensive line with left tackle Dan Audick flopping over to the right side between guard Randy Cross and tackle Keith Fahnhorst (Saturday, one day before the Super Bowl). "It happens all the time," Montana said in the locker room afterwards. "We were afraid we were going to get a new play on our way to the game while our bus was stopped."

It was Walsh who ushered in the era of the ball-control passing game. San Francisco has had excellent wide receivers throughout its championship years (and almost certainly has the most talented duo now playing in Jerry Rice and John Taylor), but they are sent short more often than long, and the backs and tight end are employed in routes that Noll's teams never dreamed of.

Walsh isn't hesitant to admit he sees his offensive system as one of the driving forces behind the 49ers' prolonged success. "The high-percentage passing game, the concepts used, the timing and use of formations and motion, the ability to throw to outlet receivers almost spontaneously—that entire system of pass offense has sustained the 49ers, and especially this year [1990]. And because of the quest for improvement all the time, they've just become more and more refined at every facet of it. Right now, I think the system is just killing the opposition."

Chuck Ren

Merv Corning

The mark of a great team—as demonstrated by both Pittsburgh and San Francisco—is an ability to reserve its greatest performances for the biggest games. The 49ers, of course, prefer to wait until the situation looks hopeless before striking. The 11-play, 92-yard drive that Montana and his level-headed troops mounted in the closing minutes of Super Bowl XXIII is legendary.

So we might as well be comparing the Pittsburgh Apples and the San Francisco Oranges, right? In the most obvious sense, yes. Remember, though, that Dalai Lama VI didn't necessarily look anything like Dalai Lama V. It's not outward appearance that counts. Beneath the surface, the teams have more in common.

One undeniable similarity is the sad state of affairs that existed just prior to the renaissance. Chuck Noll and Bill Walsh each was hired as a first-time NFL head coach to shake a losing team from slumber, Noll in 1969 and Walsh a decade later in 1979. The 49ers actually had shown some promise under head coach Monte Clark in 1976, but the team quickly faded after it was purchased by the DeBartolo family a year later. The man painted as the villain of the tale was general manager Joe Thomas, whom Edward DeBartolo, Jr., had hired to run the club. Thomas traded away numerous draft choices for aging veterans, most notably O.J. Simpson, and alienated the local press

CLASH OF THE TITANS

"We would!" barks Terry Bradshaw before the question is finished. "I knew you were gonna ask that." It's an obvious query, one that he and many of the other principal figures must contend with on a regular basis. Who would win if the Team of the '70s met the Team of the '80s in a perfect world? Inquiring minds want to know.

"We would." According to Bradshaw, that reply is exactly what made the Steelers great. "And it's why the 49ers would say they'd win," he continues. "We were determined and proud and selfish, and I'll never admit that anybody could have beaten us in those Super Bowls. Let everybody scream and holler at me all they want. If I'm sitting around with my group of forty-seven guys, they're gonna look at me and say, 'What the hell do you mean the 49ers would beat us?'"

Hoping to settle the issues that NFL fans most like to bicker about, NFL Films and the XOR computer software company got together last year...and ignited a whole new round of debate. XOR generated computer-simulated games between the greatest teams in league history, then NFL Films diligently pieced together game footage that corresponded to the action. The result was "The Dream Season," which was telecast on ESPN...and yes, the 1978 Steelers faced the 1984 49ers in a semi-final game.

Pittsburgh beat San Francisco in 52 of 100 simulations, earning the right to play (and beat) the 1972 Miami Dolphins in Dream Bowl I. In the particular game selected for public viewing, linebacker Jack Ham intercepted a pass by Joe Montana in the end zone with nine seconds remaining to preserve the Steelers' 20-17 victory. So that's that, right?

Well, not exactly. The 1989 49ers glided so effortlessly to a championship that NFL Films president Steve Sabol decided they deserved a crack at the '78 Steelers. Dream Bowl II was scheduled for telecast on the day of Super Bowl XXV, so you might already be aware of the outcome. If not, we won't spoil it for you. We will, however, repeat Joe Montana's words from ESPN's preview show:

"What we're going to try to do is not let their pass rush get to us. We're going to try to get the ball off pretty quick and not let them put us in a situation where we're second-and-ten or -twelve, or in a long third-down situation...We're going to try to hit them straight ahead and not lose any yardage early. That way we'll be in a position to win the game in the fourth quarter, and that's when we're best."

You can bet he'll be watching for Jack Ham this time. Bill Walsh, who agrees that the 1989 team was the best 49ers team, reacts with real-life candor to the question of superiority. "If I wanted to be a gentleman, I'd say it would be a toss-up," he states. "Now, if the Steelers started arguing...I'd want to argue, too."

with his combative style. DeBartolo, only 31 years old at the time, fired Thomas and hired Walsh (a popular head coach at nearby Stanford University) after the 1978 season, a campaign in which the 49ers finished 2-14. DeBartolo since has attained great popularity among San Francisco sports fans; the late Joe Thomas still is not forgiven in the Bay Area.

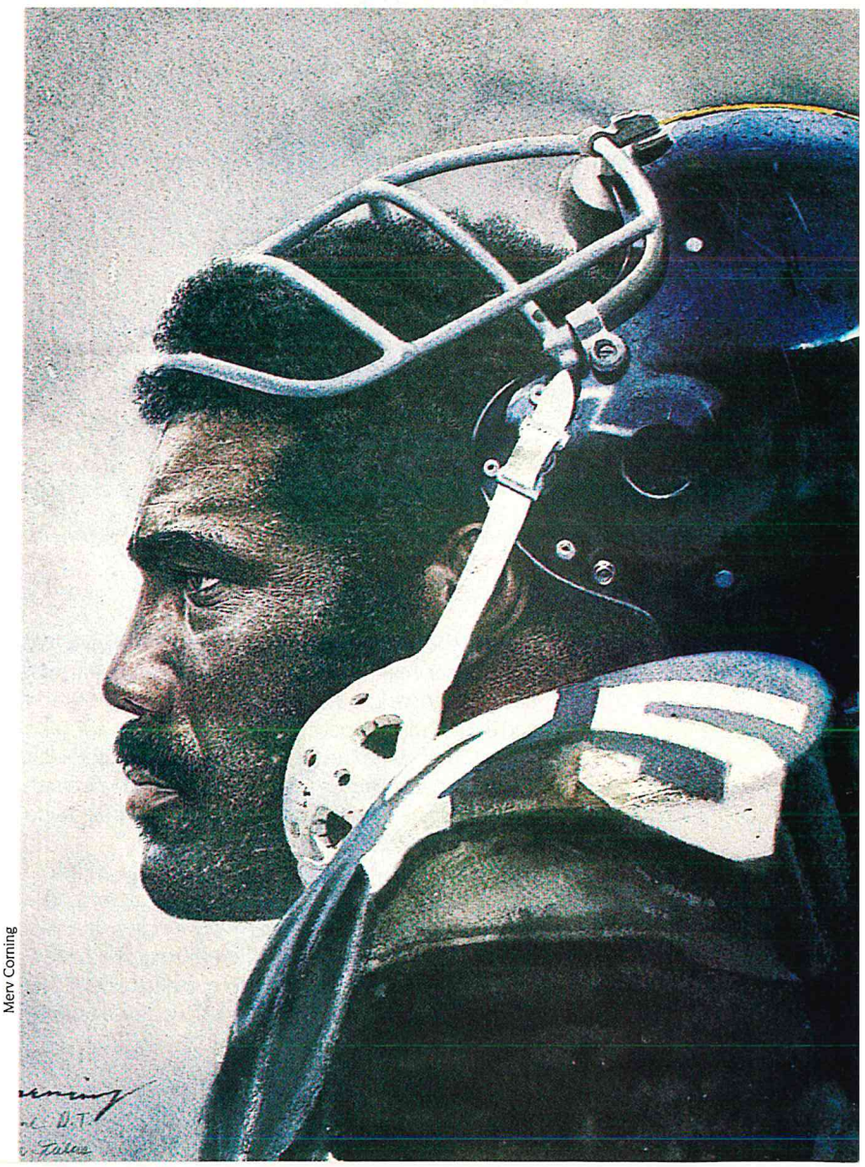
If the 1978 49ers were at the bottom of the barrel, the old Steelers had long since seeped into the ground water. Like San Francisco, Pittsburgh never had won an NFL championship; unlike San Francisco, Pittsburgh rarely had come close. In the 36 seasons between 1933 and 1968, the Steelers had posted 8 winning records, 5 break-evens, and a whopping 23 losing records, including a 2-11-1 mark in 1968.

The entire postseason history of the franchise consisted of two games—a 1947 Eastern Division playoff against Philadelphia and a gratuitous 1962 Playoff Bowl. Both were losses.

Yes, a gloomy situation greeted both Noll and Walsh, but each head coach revamped his coaching staff, gave his players new direction...and loudly fell on his butt in his first season. Noll's 1969 team won its season opener over the Lions, then lost 13 straight; Walsh's 1979 team crashed and burned at 2-14.

As we now know, it wouldn't take either of them long to form a winner, but both teams went through an awkward stage of adolescence before reaching maturity. Dan Radakovich, Pittsburgh's defensive line coach in 1971 and its offensive line coach from 1974-77 and now a Cleveland assistant, remembers the transition stage.

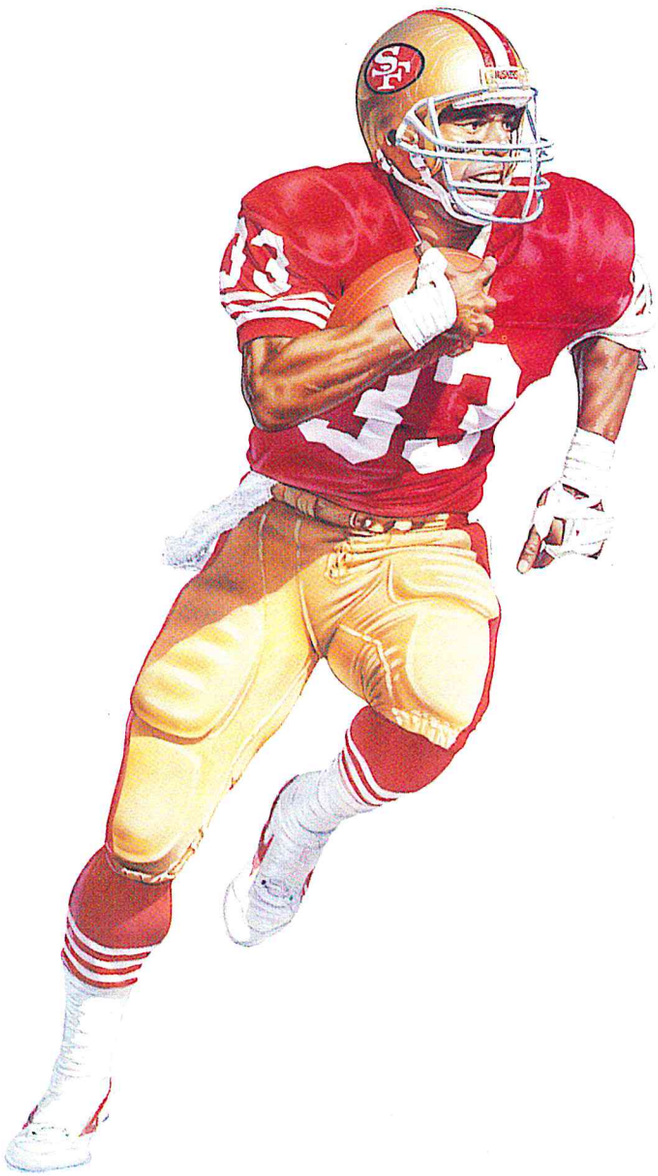
"In our first game in 1971,



Merv Corning

Mean Joe Greene (right), a 10-time Pro Bowler once likened by John Madden to the shark in *Jaws*, anchored the Steel Curtain defense that terrorized offenses for nearly a decade.

DYNASTY



Chuck Ren

Roger Craig symbolizes the versatility of the 49ers' offense. Craig is the only man in NFL history to gain 1,000 yards both rushing and receiving in the same season (1985).

against the Bears—my first game as defensive line coach—our defense held the Bears to ninety yards total offense...and we lost the game. We were leading 15-3 and had the ball with several minutes to go—*had the ball*—and we lost. They picked up two fumbles and won 17-15. But we had some talent: Joe Greene, Jack Ham, the new secondary guys—Mike Wagner and Glen Edwards—who started as rookies."

You could see the confidence mounting, the coordination developing. Walsh's 49ers bore fruit more quickly, landing an NFL title in the coach's third season, but they also needed a stepping stone. The 1980 team (with Montana and Steve DeBerg splitting time at quarterback) had an offense that made the league nervous, and a tattered defense that made the league giggle. Then the 49ers began to click.

"The first inkling was our win over the Redskins in 1981, just the intensity of our play," Walsh says. That was week 5. "I believe it was the next week that we destroyed Dallas 45-14, and the year before they had beaten us 59-14, so it was a total reversal. This was the most significant win the 49ers had had in seven or eight years. We played a team that was one of the best in football, and beat them in all phases of the game. Because we moved the ball so well against their famous defense, I felt that we could be serious contenders. Still, it was difficult to tell whether it would last.

"But the next week we went back to Green Bay and won in Milwaukee, in terrible weather, and that was the real test, because we were coming off such an emotional lift. That proved to me, and certainly to the team, that they could go to anybody's field and do well."

And the rest is dynasty. San Francisco earned raucous victory parades with triumphs in Super Bowls XVI (26-21 over Cincinnati), XIX (38-16 over Miami), XXIII (20-16 over Cincinnati again), and XXIV (55-10 over Denver).

But little or none of this would have transpired if not for young men named Terry Bradshaw and Joe Montana. Bradshaw was a good ol' boy from Louisiana Tech, Montana a polished athlete from Notre Dame; Bradshaw was the first pick in the 1970 NFL draft, Montana a third-round choice in 1979; Bradshaw favored a bombs-away approach, while Montana excels at the 10-yard bullet; Bradshaw struggled for several years before finding his stride (his rookie season included a completion percentage of 38.1, 6 touchdown passes, and 24 interceptions), but Montana made it look easy almost immediately after he was handed the starting job. Yep, about the only thing Ozark Ike and Joe Cool have in common is an impressive ring collection.

Walsh and Montana didn't always chirp in perfect harmony during their years together, but the coach knows a franchise player when he sees one. "I think [backup quarterback] Steve Young could take the team as far as virtually any quarterback in the league," Walsh says, "but Joe is just another dimension. I'm just in awe of how he plays the game. It's almost overkill—Joe is so good that he doesn't even have to be this good for the 49ers to win. If you talk about athletic ability, experience, competitiveness, instincts—all those things—he's at the very top.

"But he's also had a system of football that's afforded him a chance to really use his talents."

Bradshaw, who was a CBS color commentator before moving into one of the network's studio seats this year, has watched Montana quite a bit the last few years, and he hasn't been stingy in his admiration. "Montana just has a knack, doesn't he? You can't put your finger on it. He throws those little quick slants and quick outs and

Four Lost and Forlorn

Four times they captured their league or conference title, battling through the playoffs to earn a Super Bowl appearance... and four times they lost, each time to a different opponent. They were a cold-weather team that hardly ever lost at home, but that didn't help them once they got to the Super Bowl. Their first defeat only made them hungrier, whetted their appetite for the media spotlight. But then they lost three Super Bowls in four years, demoralizing even their most rabid fans. Their quarterback for those latter three Super Bowls was one of the league's best, but he couldn't seem to put it together in the Big One. Fairly or not, they were labeled losers and subjected to national ridicule despite a lengthy tenure as one of the NFL's best teams.

They were the Minnesota Vikings. And the Denver Broncos.

"We're going to run through the entire AFC to see if there's anybody we can beat," Minnesota quarterback Fran Tarkenton said after his team's 32-14 loss to the Raiders in Super Bowl XI. "So far, we've turned Kansas City, Miami, Pittsburgh, and Oakland into dynasties."

"At least Fran was *in* a couple of those Super Bowls," Denver quarterback John Elway said after his club was trounced 55-10 by San Francisco a year ago. "I've never been in one. We've been manhandled every time."

Actually, the Broncos at least can say they know what it's like to have held the lead in the Super Bowl. Denver scored first in two of its appearances, and even took a 10-9 lead into the locker room at halftime of Super Bowl XXI. The Vikings, on the other hand, never led in 240 minutes of Super Bowl play.

What did these franchises do to deserve such torment? (Sure, they wear purple and orange, but is that in itself enough of a crime?) Minnesota was outscored 95-34 in its four games against the Chiefs (IV), Dolphins (VIII), Steelers (IX), and Raiders (XI); the Broncos amassed a 163-50 deficit in their four contests with the Cowboys (XII), Giants (XXI), Redskins (XXII), and 49ers (XXIV). The closest final margin in any of the eight games was the Vikings' 16-6 loss to Pittsburgh. And that score is deceiving; it wasn't that close.

Minnesota never established a ground game—its best Super Bowl rushing output was 72 yards against Miami in VIII, its most sterling individual performance a 44-yard effort by Chuck Foreman versus Oakland in XI. Denver's problems usually were on the defensive side of the ball—Orange Crush opponents averaged 446.6 total yards in four games, paced by Washington's Super Bowl-record 602 yards in XXII. And each team had turnover problems. The Vikings coughed up the ball 15 times in four games, the Broncos 16 times.

In the final analysis, though, each club was the victim of its conference's inferiority. Minnesota was the best NFC team of the mid-1970s, but it just couldn't compete with AFC powerhouses such as Pittsburgh, Oakland, and Miami. By the latter half of the 1980s, when Denver ascended in the AFC, the interconference tables had turned, and teams such as San Francisco, the New York Giants, and Washington were more than a match for any Super Bowl opponent.

quick posts, and he always seems to find the guy who's wide open. And he never has a bad game—damnedest thing I ever saw."

Two other names must be mentioned here, though neither was spotted in a black-and-gold or red-and-gold jersey during the glory years. The names are Rooney and DeBartolo. Ownership can't win football games, but happy, well-paid players can.

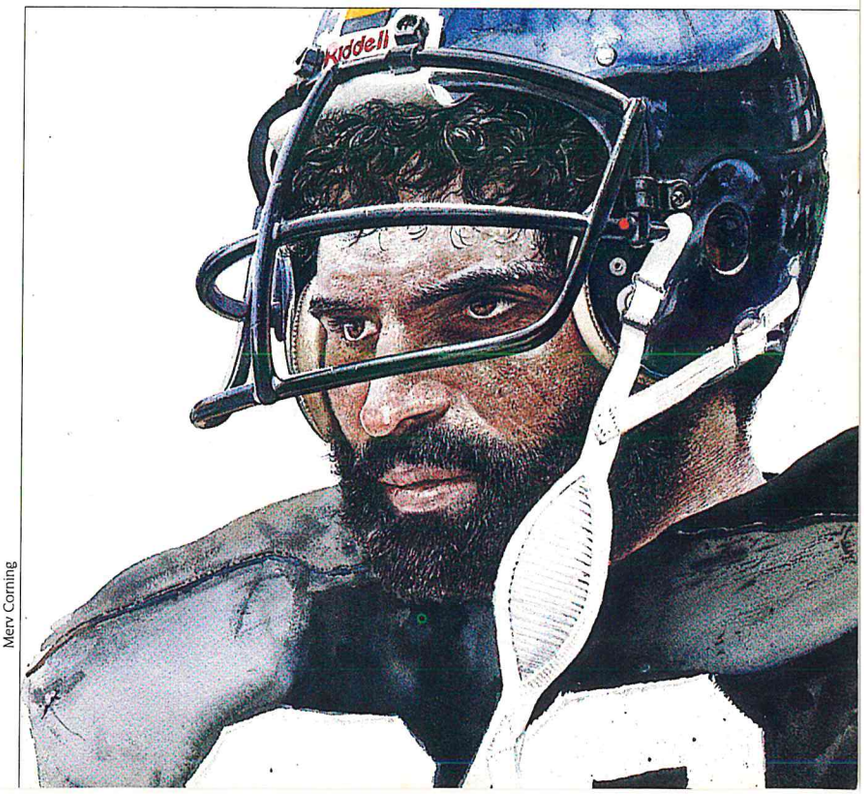
"The similarities [between the two great teams] are in how the organization has been built," says 49ers linebackers coach Bob Zeman, who was with Pittsburgh's arch-rival, Oakland, from 1971 to 1977. "It's a tribute to the organization that it can bring people in and mold them to what you want to get it done.

"From the feedback I hear from players, when they have a good owner—they had a good one in Art Rooney and they've got a good one here—they don't want to let him down. Some places, they're kind of out there on their own. Here they have a mission: They want to take care of the guy who's been good to them. It really makes a difference. I've heard players say, 'We can't let Mr. D down.'"

The late Art Rooney, Sr., is the closest thing to a patron saint that the NFL has seen. Good-natured, paternalistic, and generous, he had an emotional bond with his players that is even rarer now than it was when he won his first Super Bowl trophy in January, 1975. Art's son Dan, the Steelers' current president, is cut from a similar mold. Eddie DeBartolo, Jr., has a different sort of presence. Respected if not revered, he is the model owner of his era, willing to reward his employees financially. And when it comes to occupational perks, nothing could be finer than to be a 49er. DeBartolo charters private jets for road games, and the entire team—players, coaches, staff, and their families—was awarded with an all-expenses-paid trip to Hawaii after Super Bowl XXIV.

Most important, both the Rooneys and DeBartolo have understood the words "hands

There was nothing tricky about Franco Harris. The durable running back had eight 1,000-yard seasons for the Steelers, including six straight from 1974 to 1979.



Merv Corning

off." They've had the good sense to stand back and let coaches Chuck Noll, Bill Walsh, and George Seifert do their things.

"We never even heard from our owners," Bradshaw says. "Chuck and his staff had complete authority to run the football team. And another thing: When Preston Pearson went to Dan Rooney and said a lot of these guys aren't eating right because they're not married, Dan Rooney set it up where we could go upstairs to the Allegheny Club and eat hot lunches on Wednesdays and Thursdays. When we needed better showers, a bigger weight room, better facilities—even a jacuzzi we saw that would seat fifteen players—they got it for us."

It's easy to see how Noll's Steelers and the Walsh-Seifert 49ers fought their way to the top. They were, or are, great teams. What's more impressive is that they were able to remain at the top for several years. The 1983 Raiders, the 1985 Bears, and the 1986 Giants all were dominant teams that many people thought had dynasty potential. None of those franchises has won a title since. What made the difference for Pittsburgh and San Francisco?

"Our stars played like stars," Bradshaw says. "Unlike the guy who hits fifty homers and gets into the World Series, and then strikes out and goes one-for-twenty."

"Hey, this was a championship game," defensive end L.C. Greenwood said after the Steelers had dismantled Houston 34-5 in the 1978 AFC title game. "I'd have played it in the ocean if I'd had to, and I can't even swim." Sometimes, when your stars play like stars, a funny thing happens: The rest of the team starts to play that way, too.

"Our lesser players walked with a certain pride that they wouldn't necessarily have themselves," Bradshaw says. "The third-string halfback who was on special teams had a cockiness about him, a self-assuredness about him, an awareness about who he was and what he represented, and he played above himself."

Zeman has witnessed the same phenomenon in San Francisco. "When we bring in a player, he knows what his role is and what is expected of him, and he gets to that next level," Zeman says. "There are a lot of teams that have good players. On this team, the excellent players pull the other guys along and bring them up.

"You can start with Joe Montana and Roger Craig and Jerry Rice and Ronnie Lott. They have such great work ethics and compete so hard in practice that it filters down through the rest. They have their time to fool around, but when we hit the practice field, the focus is on football."

Walsh takes this idea of success-by-association one step further, describing a psychological unity that pervaded his team. "There were individual players who threaded through all the championships," he says, "especially Ronnie Lott and Joe Montana, who are Hall-of-Fame players. And there were any number of outstanding players from one Super Bowl to another. So talent is particularly important for any championship. But aside from talent, we developed a state of mind in the team over a period of years where each player demanded and expected a lot from his teammates, and each player was an extension of his teammates. So when Joe Montana threw the ball, and Dwight Clark or Jerry Rice caught it, they were a direct extension of those people blocking for them, and even for the defensive players.

The Next NFL Dynasty?

All right, suspend your better judgment for a moment and let's assume the 49ers will *not* win seven of the next eight Super Bowls. Imagine, for example, that Joe Montana retires in August, 1991, lured to become maitre'd at his buddy Dwight Clark's Redwood City restaurant; that Roger Craig becomes the new Jack LaLanne; and that Jerry Rice becomes the latest free-agent coup for the Oakland Athletics, who proclaim him their starting centerfielder in 1993.

Who might emerge to accept the mantle from the NFL's current dynasty? Well, the 1970s Steelers and 1980s 49ers were constructed with very different material, but they did share a few important structural similarities, namely: (1) benevolent ownership that supported the cause without being intrusive or heavy-handed; (2) a head coach who arrived with no prior NFL head-coaching experience and instilled vigor into the team; (3) a bright young quarterback around whom the offense would be built; and (4) a title-starved base of fans who were more than ready to act very silly if it helped lead to a world championship.

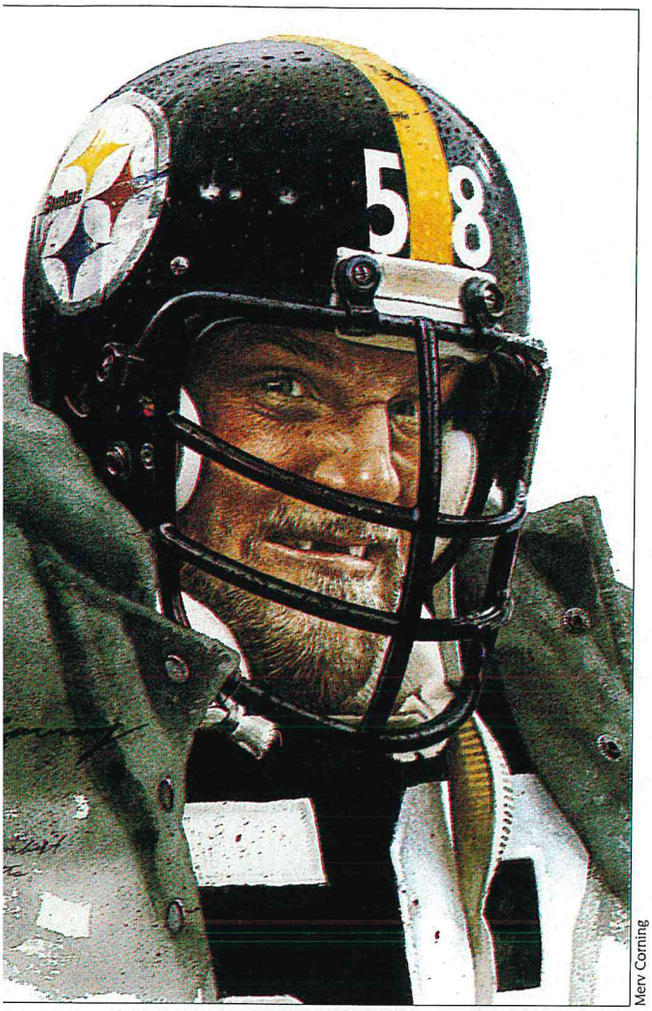
Can we scan the current NFL landscape for a golden child, still in its infancy, who fits the model established by Pittsburgh and San Francisco? Yes! There is a team of the 1990s, and that team is...the Detroit Lions! Sure, it's jumping the gun a little bit, especially when you consider the Lions haven't won an NFC Central Division title since 1983 or an NFL championship since Dwight Eisenhower was President, but we wanted to give you a good head start on Lions season tickets and "Restore the Roar" T-shirts.

Not convinced? Look, team owner William Clay Ford, son of Edsel Ford, was 9 years old when he first saw the team play at the University of Detroit Stadium in 1934, the Lions' first season in the Motor City. He's the type of franchise owner you never hear anything about, except that his employees respect him. And then there's Wayne Fontes, the former defensive coordinator who has displayed the kind of enthusiasm usually reserved for game show hosts since taking over as head coach in December, 1988. Still not swayed? Well, either Rodney Peete *or* Andre Ware could turn out to be the next Terry Bradshaw; each is considered to be an outstanding pro prospect.

"I'm thrilled that someone feels we have the qualities that those two dynasties had in the seventies and eighties," says Fontes in apparent mock surprise, as if he didn't know destiny was buzzing at his security gate. "We do have a very young quarterback, and that's a start, and we have a great young running back [Barry Sanders], and that's maybe even a better start. Let's hope those dynasties will move over and give the Detroit Lions a chance."

But is Fontes prepared for the intense scrutiny imposed upon a world champion? He seems to be on the right track. "The only time I have problems with the media is when we don't do well," he says. "When we win, I'll just step back and let my team and my coaching staff get all the accolades."

So there you have it. Sorry to take the suspense out of the last three or four years of the decade, but we didn't want to be accused of jumping on the bandwagon late. And if, by some strange twist of fate, the Detroit Lions are not able to write "Team of the '90s" on their first game program of the 21st Century...never trust formulas when it comes to football.



Merv Corning

Pittsburgh had a lot of great defensive players, but it was linebacker Jack Lambert who stoked the emotional fires. Lambert was feared by teammates and opponents alike.

"Not that the 49ers haven't had some great players, but we haven't had players we've gone out and hyped. We've had a sense of team and of organization, and that has sustained the 49ers where other teams have fallen off. If you remember, after the Giants won their Super Bowl [XXI], I think a dozen books were written. And the Bears had their videos and their books, too."

Radakovich, however, cautions against overestimating the power of *esprit de corps*. "When you win," he says, "everybody loves everybody. When you lose, things are bad. So what comes first, the chicken or the egg?"

He thinks balance is the real key. "When you win like [the 49ers] win," Radakovich says, "you're good at all parts of the game, like the Steelers were. The years they've won it, they've had good offense, good defense, and good special teams, and that's usually the team that does it. And that's the way the Steelers won it. Back in 1974, Lynn Swann was a punt returner and Donnie Shell was the world's greatest special-teams player. People don't even remember that."

As Bradshaw will tell you, it isn't always easy to be a champion. "You can't ever really enjoy it," he says. "Everybody wants to beat the world champions, and when you do lose, it's a bitter, bitter pill to swallow. I remember playing the Bengals when we were 5-1 and they were 0-6 [1979], and those suckers beat us bad [34-10]. They were screaming and hollering, carrying on on the field. Every week you had to play up to your level. Sometimes you just go, 'I don't want to!' It's very, very demanding. People say, 'The 49ers are barely winning.' But dang, man, they're winning."

Not to say that he'd trade any of his four titles for all the money in the world. Winning, you see, can be addictive, and that, more than glamour or wealth, is what drove teams like the 1979 Pittsburgh Steelers and the 1989 San Francisco 49ers to achieve goals they had reached several times before.

"You can go the rest of your life and never know that feeling," Bradshaw says in retrospect. "The wonderful thing about it is you can say to yourself, 'Once in my life, I knew what it was like to walk on the same field with what is considered to be the world's greatest football team, and to be a part of that.' It's an awesome feeling to know that you're gonna go out on a football field today and you're gonna win this game. And you know what? *They* know you're gonna win it."

Hmmm...sounds a lot like the 49ers too, doesn't it?

DEPTH PERCEPTION

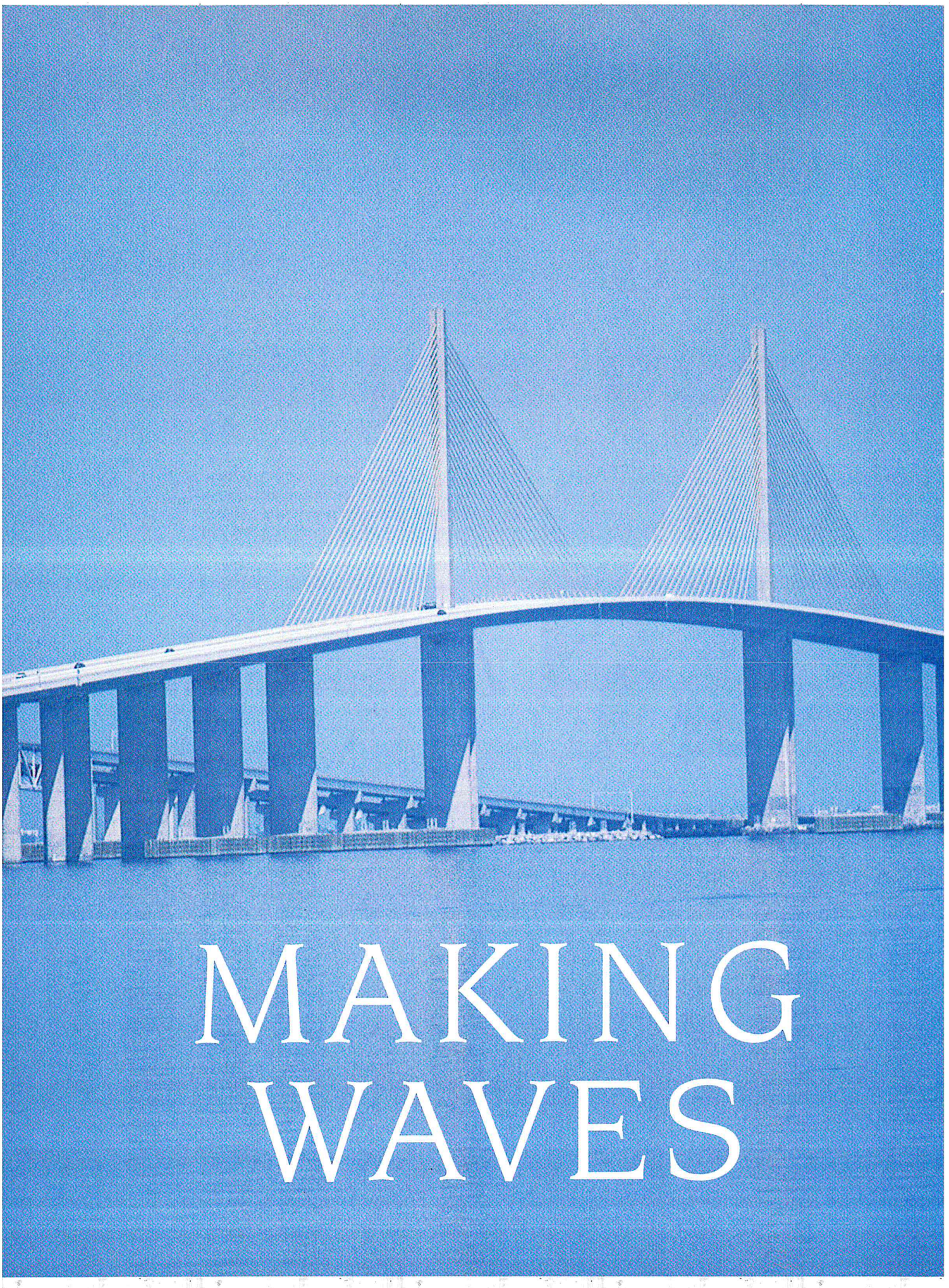
Bench strength? The dynasties in question were (and are) so loaded in talent that team practices must have been more competitive than some of their Super Bowls. Below is a lineup made up of players who played in the Super Bowl for the Steelers or 49ers...as *substitutes*. Most of these second-stringers started for their respective teams in other Super Bowls; many of them achieved Pro Bowl status earlier or later in their careers. Except for a curiously weak ground attack, the Benchwarmers probably would have been quite a successful team. Of course, they wouldn't be very deep.

Offense

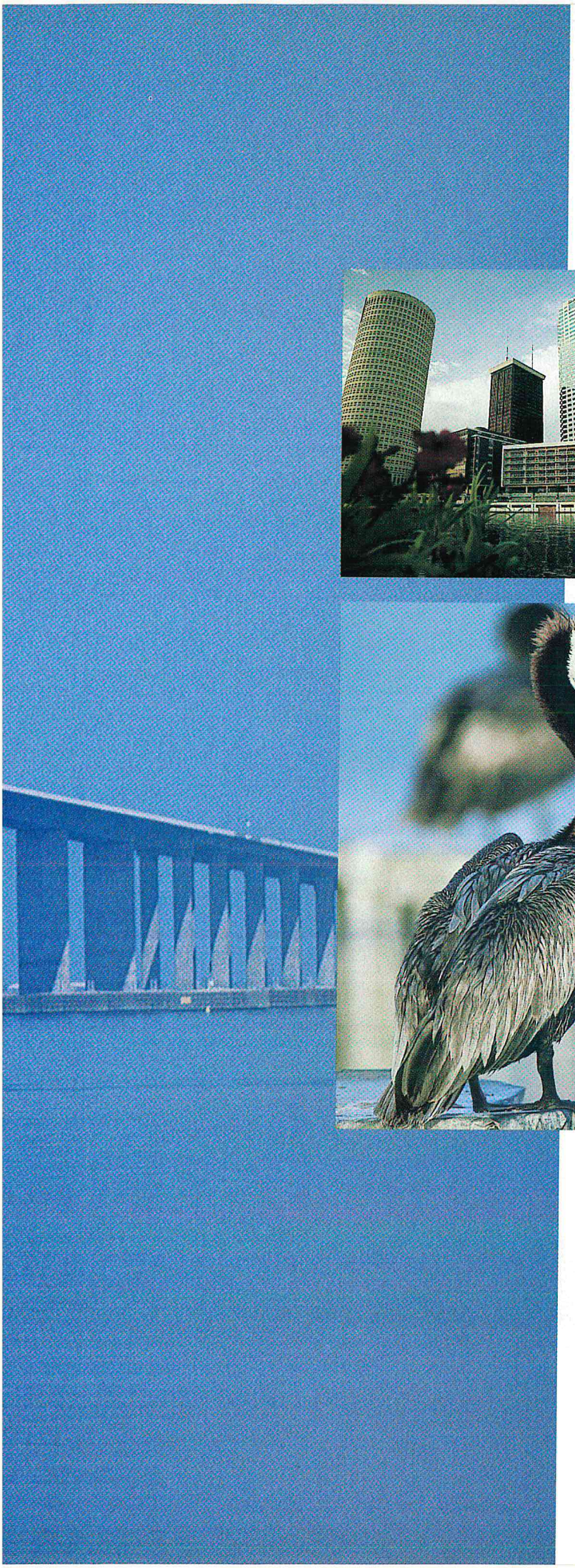
WR—Lynn Swann (Pitt.)
T—Bubba Paris (S.F.)
G—Sam Davis (Pitt.)
C—Mike Webster (Pitt.)
G—Guy McIntyre (S.F.)
T—Larry Brown (Pitt.)
TE—Brent Jones (S.F.)
WR—John Stallworth (Pitt.)
QB—Steve Young (S.F.)
RB—Preston Pearson (Pitt.)
RB—Sidney Thornton (Pitt.)

Defense

DE—Fred Dean (S.F.)
NT—Michael Carter (S.F.)
DE—Dwight White (Pitt.)
OLB—Robin Cole (Pitt.)
ILB—Riki Ellison (S.F.)
ILB—Michael Walter (S.F.)
OLB—Dennis Winston (Pitt.)
CB—Dave Brown (Pitt.)
CB—Eric Wright (S.F.)
S—Donnie Shell (Pitt.)
S—Jeff Fuller (S.F.)

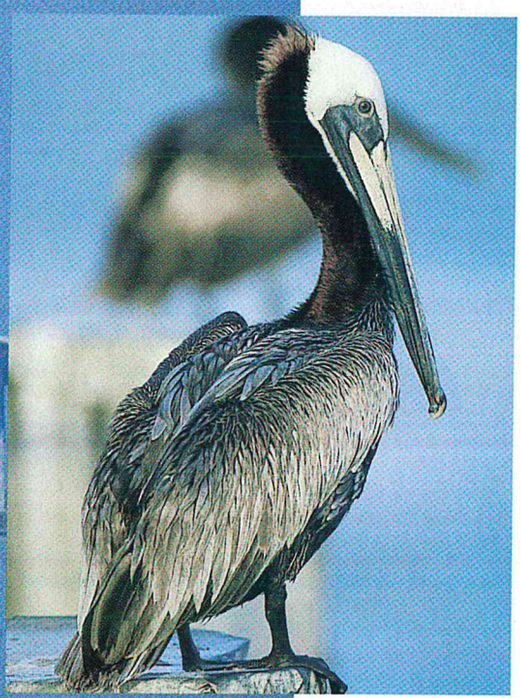


MAKING WAVES



SPOTLIGHT XXV

Take Equal Parts Water and Sun...and the Result Is Tampa



Photographs by Al Messerschmidt

"Mother, mother ocean,
I have heard your call,
Wanted to sail upon your water
Since I was three feet tall...
In your belly you hold the treasures
few have ever seen,
Most of them dreams."

—Jimmy Buffett from
"A Pirate Looks at Forty"

The Florida theme of Jimmy Buffett's music is synonymous with the lifestyle of the Tampa Bay area. One of the state's coziest ports of call, Tampa beckons dreamers, sailors, businessmen, and all of America to enjoy its treasures and its serenity.

Millions have answered the call, relaxing in a wealth of warm sunshine on golden beaches. Tanned bodies soak up rays while gulf breezes drift inland and sailboats float along the horizon.

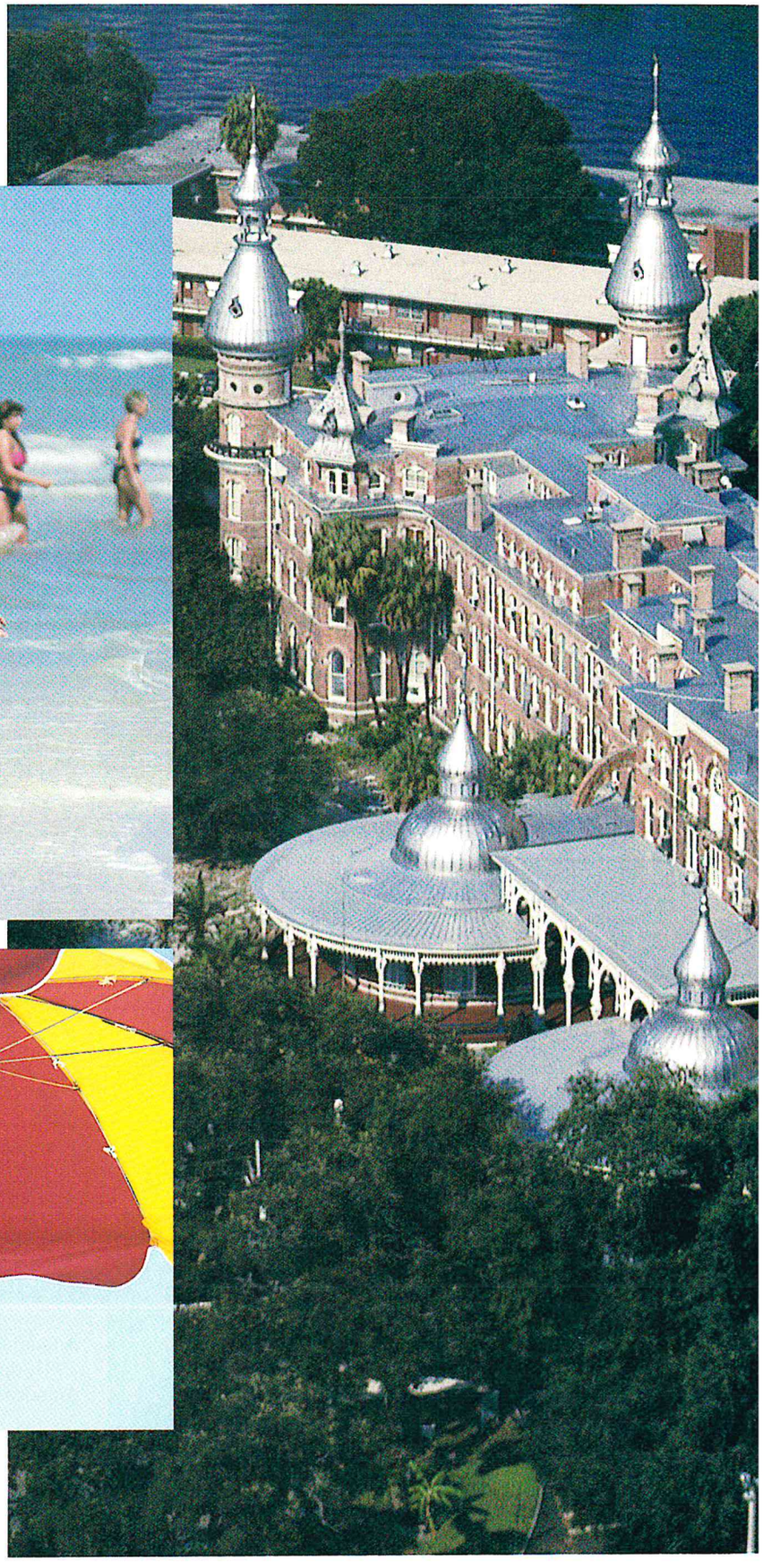
They know how to have fun in Tampa, whether it's exercising, fishing, boating, or just kicking back. The warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico encourage it.

▲Tampa once was a small military outpost. Times change: In 1991, downtown Tampa is a business center for some of America's top corporations.

▲Many travelers consider Tampa International Airport the gateway to Florida. But Tampa Bay's shores also are a showcase for Florida's diverse marine life, which includes the pelican.

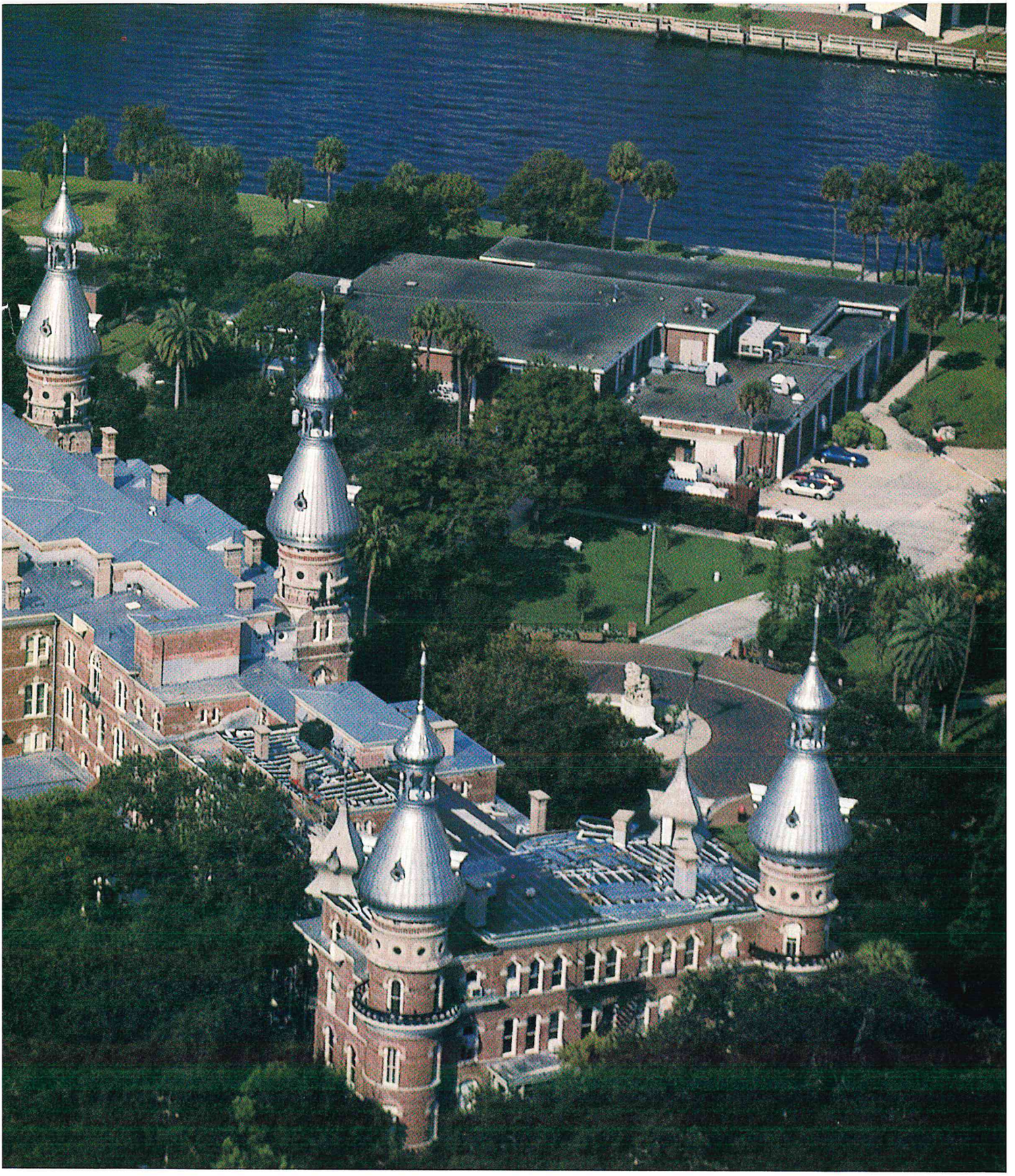
◀Part of the area's skyline, the Sunshine Skyway Bridge is an architectural masterpiece that connects St. Petersburg and Manatee County over the mouth of Tampa Bay.

MAKING WAVES

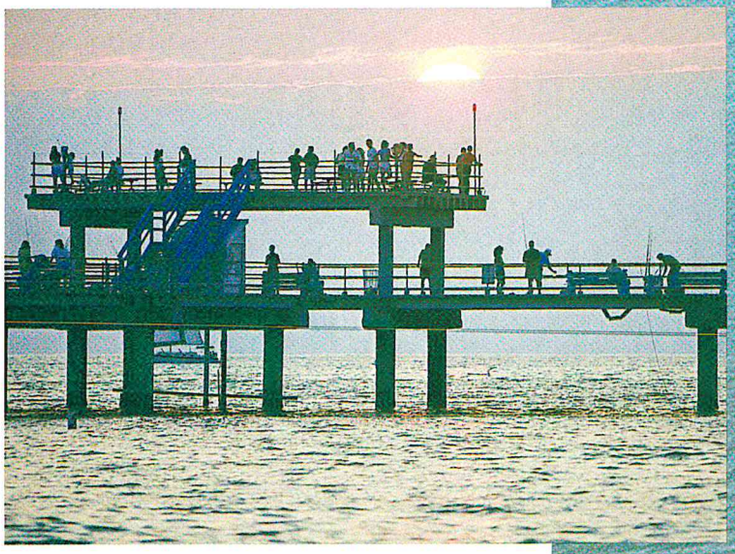


▲ Beauty and the beefcake: typical scenes at the many beaches in and around Tampa Bay.

▶ The Super Bowl is 25, but one of the landmark buildings in Tampa Bay has done it four times better. The University of Tampa's administration building, originally a luxury hotel, celebrated its 100th birthday last January 31. The distinctive Moorish structure made its debut in 1890.



MAKING WAVES



▲ Responding to the lure of the sea, Tampa Bay citizens take pleasure in fishing (top) and sailing.

▶ Sail away, sail away: a peaceful island in the Gulf of Mexico, only minutes from the bustle of downtown Tampa.

SPOTLIGHT XXV

Memories in Roman Numerals

On Super Sunday, the World Is Watching

By John Wiebusch

In a perfect world, the streets are free of traffic. Crime ceases. People are happy. There is no wait for the Matterhorn ride at Disneyland. In a perfect world, it is Super Sunday and America is watching the Super Bowl. Some people are not watching, of course. You probably know some of them. But not many of them. Even people who do not watch football during the entire season watch the Super Bowl. People may not go to church all year but they go on Christmas Day.

There are Super Bowl parties everywhere. (Does anyone watch the Super Bowl alone?) Even the television ratings analysts admit their already phenomenal numbers for the Super Bowl aren't accurate. Like the usual ratings, they measure number of sets and assign an average number of viewers to each set. But there is no *average number of viewers* for a Super Bowl. The traditional measuring stick says somewhere between 130 and 150 million Americans watch a Super Bowl. In fact, the real numbers might be as many as 40 million more than that.

Corky Trewin

The Super Bowl—49ers variety or otherwise—seems to have the American public pinned.

Nine of the top ten highest-rated television shows of all time are Super Bowls. The only intruder is the last episode of "M*A*S*H". Seventeen of the top twenty highest-rated television shows of all time are Super Bowls. The only other exceptions are a couple parts of the "Roots" miniseries. All of the last 20 Super Bowls are among the top 25 shows of all time. (You really *do* know someone who doesn't watch the Super Bowl, huh?)

Madison Avenue knows the power of the Super Bowl. Dozens of major new products have been introduced to America on Super Sunday. Hundreds of eventually familiar commercial themes have made debuts that day. Billions of dollars have been spent making those commercials and then purchasing the air time to run them. USA *Today* runs an annual viewers' rating poll of the Super Bowl's *commercials*. People who were at the game watch video tapes of the game, and not necessarily to rewatch the game. Often it's to see the commercials.

And so far we've been talking only about the area from Atlanta to Anchorage, from Kauai to Kansas, from Maine to Montana (the state, not the quarterback). Like it or loathe it, global homogenization is alive and well in our times. There are McDonald's fran-

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Boom or bussed—besides making for an interesting sight in the parking lot, group packages have helped sell out all but the first Super Bowl.

chises in London and Tokyo, in Milan and Mexico City. And the telecast of the Super Bowl is the biggest game in those towns, too. They watch the game in China, in Australia, in Germany, in Venezuela.

For between three and four hours on Sunday afternoon, Sunday evening, or even Monday morning, more than one billion people make neither love nor war (unless it is over the relative merits or demerits of the teams they are watching). It is global warming in the best sense.

I watched the first four Super Bowls on television. My first one in person was V. XXV will be my XXIst. I have seen the Steelers and the 49ers win four games. I have seen the Broncos and Vikings each lose four games. I have seen derring-do and I have seen frustration. In the yin and yang of emotions, I have seen a lot of smiles and a lot of tears. A few were mine.

There is no place on earth I would rather have been for those 21 afternoons...for those 21 Saturdays and 21 Fridays and, yes, for those 21 Super *Weeks*.

Super Bowl V seems to have been played in a time and place far, far away...and in fact it was.

I was working on a book about Vince Lombardi when I went to Miami in January, 1971. The great coach had died of cancer in September, 1970.

I was to stay at the press hotel, the Americana, while I interviewed owners and other club executives who were staying at the Kenilworth Hotel next door.

I looked around as the desk clerk searched for my registration confirmation. The lobby of the Americana looked like a fifties period piece gone old very ungracefully. Then there seemed to be, uh, a problem. The clerk could find no registration confirmation...but would I care to share a room for $22.50 a night? By happy coincidence, I was put in a room with an old friend, Maury White of the *Des Moines Register*. We had a view of the parking lot. And, to reveal a 20-year-old secret, Maury's snores were remarkably similar to the sounds bull elephants make when they are calling in their herd.

The people with whom I wanted to talk all were within 100 yards, and my friend Jim Finks, then the Vikings' general manager, took me from cabana to cabana to introduce me to George Halas, Art Rooney, Wellington Mara, Art Modell, Carroll Rosenbloom, and other owners.

My first Super Bowl—my first Super Week—took place in a tiny universe. The teams—the Cowboys and the Colts—were only short rides away. Otherwise, everyone who was anyone connected with the game, the league, and attendant groups was headquartered along one small strip of sand. There were no outward signs of pressure. It was only a game, or so it seemed. There was an NFL party—the Commissioner's Party, it was called then—but it was modest in scope; I have been to Fourth of July parties since that were bigger. I sat in the main press box for the game, and I knew almost everyone.

In this tale of two cities, take two decade-sized steps forward...to New Orleans and Super Bowl XXIV.

This time I shared a room with my wife, and we had

a panoramic view of both the Mississippi and the French Quarter. The room cost $185 a night.

The NFL hadn't just invaded New Orleans, it had occupied it. You couldn't find a room anywhere. The kindness of strangers was a distant memory. This was Serious Stuff.

The only owners I saw all week were on the other side of security-guarded ropes at the Commissioner's Party on Friday night, which included 4,000 or so of his most intimate friends in the New Orleans Convention Center. There were tables and tables (and more tables) of fabulous food. There were bands playing Dixieland and Cajun rock and Zydeco in every corner of the place.

There may have been only one game in town, but there definitely was more than one party. Does *every night* sound like a full dance card? By midweek, reporters were interviewing reporters, and broadcasters were covering reporters interviewing reporters. *National Enquirer*-type rumors became historical facts within minutes. The air was charged with manic energy.

I sat with 500 people in the second auxiliary press box, just behind a writer who was covering the game for a newspaper in Milan, and just in front of two men who were producing a documentary for a Tokyo television station.

I sat with 500 people in the second auxiliary press box (there were 1,000 people in the main press box and 500 more in the first auxiliary press box), just behind a writer who was covering the game for a newspaper in Milan, and just in front of two men who were producing a documentary on the game for a Tokyo television station. Only the man from Milan spoke English. I hardly knew anyone.

Then and now...a study in contrasts. And this is not to knock the "now." Hardly. Bigger may not be better in many things, but in the Super Bowl it seems to magnify the experience. Of course, the experience is not the only thing being magnified; so were our wallets. My combined expenses for Super Bowl V were about the same as one night in a hotel for Super Bowl XXIV.

I have seen—or will have seen—21 Super Bowls in person, but I am a relative newcomer amid a group of Super Visionaries.

Pete Rozelle, the man who conceived this game, watched its birth, nurtured it through its infancy, then guided it through its adolescence and into full-fledged adulthood, has seen every one of them.

So have other people in the NFL office...Bill Granholm and Don Weiss.

So have a modest number of club people, including Jim Finks, now of the Saints; Art Modell of the Browns; Wellington and Tim Mara of the Giants; Bill Bidwill of the Cardinals; Lamar Hunt of the Chiefs; Tex Schramm, formerly of the Cowboys; Al Davis and Al LoCasale of the Raiders; Paul and Mike Brown of the Bengals; Dan Rooney of the Steelers; Ralph Wilson of the Bills; Virginia and Ed McCaskey of the Bears; Lee Remmel of the Packers.

And so have a hardy collection of media survivors. More than 3,000 people may cover the Super Bowl these days, but only 20 have been there for all 24 games.

The Super Bowl XXV Club (there really *is* a club and it meets annually, as the Roman numerals inflate) includes 13 writers and seven photographers.

The 13 writers: Dick Connor, Art Daley, Mel Durslag, Larry Felser, Jerry Green, Jerry Izenberg, Dave Klein, Will McDonough, Norm Miller, Bob Oates, Ed Pope, Cooper Rollow, and John Steadman.

The seven photographers: John Biever, Vernon Biever, David Boss, Walter Iooss, Jr., Mickey Palmer, Dick Raphael, and Tony Tomsic.

If you think it's tough to find a Super Bowl ticket, you should try to get your hands on a field pass. Only the most accomplished and well-known sports photographers are able to join the phalanx of cameras on the sidelines.

Most of them no doubt would like me to write that they started as children (and a couple of them practically did). You talk about memoirs! You talk about photo histories! This group could show and tell you a thing or two...and more.

Take Dave Boss, for example. It was Boss who hired me away from the *Los Angeles Times* with the initial lure of the Vince Lombardi book I mentioned earlier.

Boss and pro football go back together a lot longer than just 25 Super Bowls. In 1958, 26-year-old Boss approached 32-year-old Pete Rozelle, who was in his second year as general manager of the Rams, with a novel idea to produce the club's game programs. A visionary even then, Rozelle liked the idea. In 1966, Boss was in his second year as the Creative Director for NFL Properties. Of course, by that time, Rozelle was in his seventh year as Commissioner of the National Football League. Pete asked Dave to produce the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game program (and with only a month's notice). Dave delivered, and he has been helping to do that ever since. I have been the program's editor since Super Bowl VI.

Jimmy Cribb

A complete set of Super Bowl game programs costs more than $3,000...if you can *find* a complete set (I don't even have one myself, but of course Boss does; he also has complete sets of media pins, photographer's credentials, game tickets, and game patches—the latter are sewn on a jacket he wears only during Super Bowls).

Boss has been roaming Super sidelines with his camera since the first game in the Los Angeles Coliseum on January 15, 1967. The evolution of the equipment he carries is a metaphor for the evolution of the event. For game I, he had a hand-held single-reflex camera with a 135mm lens. He had a half-dozen or so rolls of black-and-white film and a few rolls of color in his pocket. For game XXIV, he carried a state-of-the-art, motor-driven camera with a 300mm lens, all mounted on a monopod, and a second auto-focus camera with a 35-135mm zoom lens. He also had a bag with other lenses and dozens of rolls of high-speed film, most of it color.

Pete Rozelle retired as Commissioner in the fall of 1989 after 29 exceptional years on the job. Meanwhile, Dave Boss endures.

"Talk about up close and personal," he says. "It doesn't get any better than that. I mean, I was down there to photograph Bart Starr and Joe Namath...to see Lynn Swann and Jerry Rice make those incredible catches...to be there when Terry Bradshaw and Joe Montana came through in the clutch—as you knew they would."

He pauses and then speaks for all of us, even a latecomer who has seen 21 games: "It's been a special privilege."

There is an astonishing symmetry to the all-time "standings" of the Super Bowl.

Six teams—the Steelers, 49ers, Packers, Bears, Giants, and Jets—have played in the game a combined 13 times. The six teams are 13-0.

Six teams—the Raiders, Redskins, Colts, Chiefs, Cowboys, and Dolphins—have played in the game 22 times. The six teams are 11-11.

Six teams—the Vikings, Broncos, Bengals, Rams, Patriots, and Eagles—have played in the game 13 times. The six teams are 0-13.

Go figure!

There are the extreme Haves—the Steelers and the 49ers each have won four times (Pittsburgh by a combined 103-73, San Francisco by a combined 139-63)–and the extreme Have-Nots—the Vikings and the Broncos each have lost four times (Minnesota by a combined 34-95, Denver by a combined 50-163).

The Vikings and the Broncos could point out that it is better to have warred and lost than not to have warred at all. The fact that 18 teams have monopolized the Super Bowl means that 10 teams have been there only as spectators (for the record, the Little 10 includes proud old franchises such as the Browns, Lions, and Cardinals, plus the Oilers, Bills, Chargers, Saints, Falcons, Seahawks, and Buccaneers).

The closest Super Bowl was V. The Colts' margin of victory over the Cowboys was the three points that came on Jim O'Brien's field goal with five seconds left to play.

Three other games (X and XIII, both the Steelers over the Cowboys, and XXIII, the 49ers over the Bengals) were decided by four points. One game was settled by five points (the 49ers over the Bengals in XVI), one by seven points (the Dolphins over the Redskins in VII), and one by nine points (the Jets over the Colts in III).

The winning teams in the Super Bowl have scored 705 points (an average of 29.4), the losing teams 304 points (12.7). Thus, the average margin is 16.7.

Obviously, a few landslide games have resulted in that seeming imbalance. There have been seven games with margins of more than 20 points. In ascending order: the Cowboys over the Dolphins by 21 in VI, the 49ers over the Dolphins by 22 in XIX, the

Memories

Packers over the Chiefs by 25 in I, the Raiders over the Redskins by 29 in XVIII, the Redskins over the Broncos by 32 in XXII, the Bears over the Patriots by 36 in XX, and the 49ers over the Broncos by 45 in XXIV.

Three cities (or areas) have combined to host the game a total of 19 times.

New Orleans has seven (IV, VI, IX, XII, XV, XX, and XXIV).

Miami has six (II, III, V, X, XIII, and XXIII).

Los Angeles-Pasadena also has six (I, VII, XI, XIV, XVII, and XXI).

With XXV, Tampa will have two (also XVIII), while four other cities have had it once—Houston (VIII), Detroit (XVI), San Francisco (XIX), and San Diego (XXII). Upcoming first-time host cities include Minneapolis (XXVI) and Atlanta (XXVII).

Enduring above all are the people, the doers of the deeds, the Supermen.

The balloting for the all-time Super Bowl team that took place throughout the 1990 season included the names of six quarterbacks (pick one):

- ☐ Terry Bradshaw
- ☐ Joe Montana
- ☐ Joe Namath
- ☐ Jim Plunkett
- ☐ Bart Starr
- ☐ Roger Staubach

There are no losers there. Four of them are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and a fifth (Montana) will join them five years (and not a minute later) after he leaves the game. In fact, the six quarterbacks are a combined 15-2 in the Super Bowl (the only losses being Staubach's pair of four-point setbacks to Bradshaw).

The six men have won a combined *ten* Super Bowl most valuable player awards. Namath, Staubach, and Plunkett won one each, Starr and Bradshaw two each, and Montana (in a class by himself) three.

Al Messerschmidt

Like the game itself, the Super Bowl's increasingly colorful pregame and halftime shows are larger-than-life spectacles.

In fact, a good case might be made for Montana having *four* MVP awards. In Super Bowl XXIII, when wide receiver Jerry Rice was given the honor for catching 11 passes for 215 yards and 1 touchdown, all Montana did was complete 23 of 36 passes for 357 yards and 2 touchdowns, and direct a 92-yard drive in the final minutes that ended when he threw the winning 10-yard touchdown pass to John Taylor with 34 seconds left to play.

Of course, to be fair, a good case could be made *against* Montana's MVP award in Super Bowl XVI. Montana passed for just 157 yards that day (he had 331, 357, and 297 in his other three Super Bowls). In truth, the XVI MVP award might have gone to either linebacker Dan Bunz, who made two epic stops in a goal-line stand that thwarted the Bengals from first-and-goal on the 3-yard line (26-21), or linebacker Jack Reynolds, a defensive leader all day.

Ten head coaches never lost a Super Bowl. Going a combined 17-0 were the Steelers' Chuck Noll (4-0), the 49ers' Bill Walsh (3-0), the Packers' Vince Lombardi and the Raiders' Tom Flores (both 2-0), and the Jets' Weeb Ewbank, the Colts' Don McCafferty, the Raiders' John Madden, the Bears' Mike Ditka, the Giants' Bill Parcells, and the 49ers' George Seifert (all 1-0).

Here's to the winners...but here's also to the losers, men who sadly wear pro football's scarlet letter.

The Vikings lost four Super Bowls—three with Fran Tarkenton at quarterback, one with Joe Kapp at quarterback, and all four with Bud Grant as head coach. In the four games, Minnesota scored a total of five touchdowns.

The Broncos also lost four Super Bowls, first in XII, then in XXI, XXII, and XXIV. John Elway was the quarterback and Dan Reeves the head coach in the last three games, in which the losing margins were 19, 32, and 45 points.

Even coaches Don Shula and Tom Landry had to take a lot of bitter with the sweet. Shula won back-to-back Super Bowls with the Dolphins in VII and VIII (the former being the finale to a perfect 17-0 season), but he also lost four Super Bowls—III with the Colts, and VI, XVII, and XIX with Miami. Landry directed Cowboys' victories in VI and XII, but lost games V, X, and XIII.

Time magazine has called the Super Bowl, "The Great American Time Out."

Norman Vincent Peale said, "If Jesus were alive today, He would be at the Super Bowl."

Pete Rozelle said, "The Super Bowl is like the last chapter in a hair-raising mystery. No one would dare think of missing it."

Of course, the Super Bowl is more than just a

mystery. It also is parts comedy and drama, courage and absolution, hearts and flowers and macho swagger.

"Super Bowl is hype and hope, elation and disappointment. It is June Taylor and Jim Taylor. It clears out our streets and family rooms like moon walks and royal weddings have yet to do."

It is Miami kicker Garo Yepremian giving the game some slapstick in VII by attempting to pass, only to have the ball squirt out of his hands and result in Washington's lone touchdown.

It is Joe Montana driving the 49ers 92 yards in 11 plays to destiny in the closing minutes of XXIII.

It is Joe Montana with the football, period...arguably the all-time grace-under-big-game-pressure player. In four Super Bowl victories, he has completed 83 passes in 122 attempts (a .680 percentage) for 1,142 yards and 11 touchdowns (with *no* interceptions). His quarterback rating in the biggest game is 127.8.

It is the Jets' Al Atkinson hollering at the team's trainer in III to wrap his separated shoulder so he can get back into the game.

It is the Steelers' Dwight White getting out of a hospital bed (he had been suffering from pleurisy) in IX not only to play but to *dominate*.

It is the Rams' Jack Youngblood playing XIV on a fractured leg.

It is Doug Williams getting another chance in the 1987 postseason...suffering a knee injury in the first quarter of XXII...then re-entering the game in the second quarter to ignite the most incredible 15-minute fireworks display (35 points) in the history of the game.

It is the Raiders' Jim Plunkett coming back from pro football's scrap heap to lead his team to victories in XV and XVIII.

It is the Cowboys' Bob Lilly launching his helmet into orbit in the frustrating final moments of V...then emerging a champion a year later in VI.

It is the Packers' 34-year-old Max McGee carousing all night before I because he didn't think he would play, then *having* to play and responding with two crucial touchdown catches.

It is the Giants' Jim Burt hoisting his son onto his shoulder as the seconds ticked off in XXI...and repeating the act three years later in XXIV when he was with the 49ers.

It is a locker room without a dry eye as Joe Greene hands the Lombardi Trophy for IX to Steelers owner Art Rooney and says, "This one's for you, Chief."

It is Joe Namath guaranteeing a victory a few days before III, then delivering.

It is the Bears' "Super Bowl Shuffle"—the video they made months earlier—shaking the Superdome at halftime of a Chicago rout in XX.

It is the Vikings' tough quarterback Joe Kapp, swaggering onto the field at the start of IV, but needing to be helped off later.

It is Fred (The Hammer) Williamson being assisted from the field in I after playing the poundee not the pounder.

The images are endless. The Super Bowl is...

The Steelers' Lynn Swann soaring like Baryshnikov in X, XIII, and XIV...The Steelers' John Stallworth making like Lynn Swann in XIII and XIV...Colorful nicknames such as the Purple People Eaters, Doomsday I, Doomsday II, Killer Bees, No Name Defense, Orange Crush, and the Hogs...Joe Namath's long hair and sideburns and Johnny Unitas's flattop, a study in contrasting styles in III...The Colts' unaffected rookie kicker, Jim O'Brien, touching the sky after delivering a game-winning field goal in the last minute of V...The French Quarter on any night (or day) during seven Super Bowl weeks in New Orleans...The storm that battered the southern California coastline a few days before XVII...Aaron Neville's stirring National Anthem before XXIV, arguably the best in a quarter-century of Super Bowls...The Vikings' hot-air balloon crashing into the stands in IV...Halftime shows in which there seemed to be more people on the field than in the stands.

Ross Lewis

It's hard work, discipline, analysis...and a little magic.

Ray Didinger, who wrote four of the 24 game stories in *The Super Bowl*, once wrote:

"Super Bowl is hype and hope, elation and disappointment. It is June Taylor and Jim Taylor...It clears out our streets and fills our family rooms and pulls us together like moon walks and royal weddings have yet to do. Even when it came at the end of a tattered, strike-shortened season, the Super Bowl had us on our feet, cheering and forgiving all the Sundays that had dawned so empty.

"Super Bowl is ritual and legend, the toy we never outgrew, the dame we never leave behind. Let the sociologists argue about the symbolism of it all. Let your mother-in-law worry about the pot roast. When it's fourth-and-goal and Bradshaw is asking for quiet and I'm leaning forward in my chair hollering, 'Give it to Franco!,' I know where I'm supposed to be."

I'm right there beside you, Ray.

We all are.

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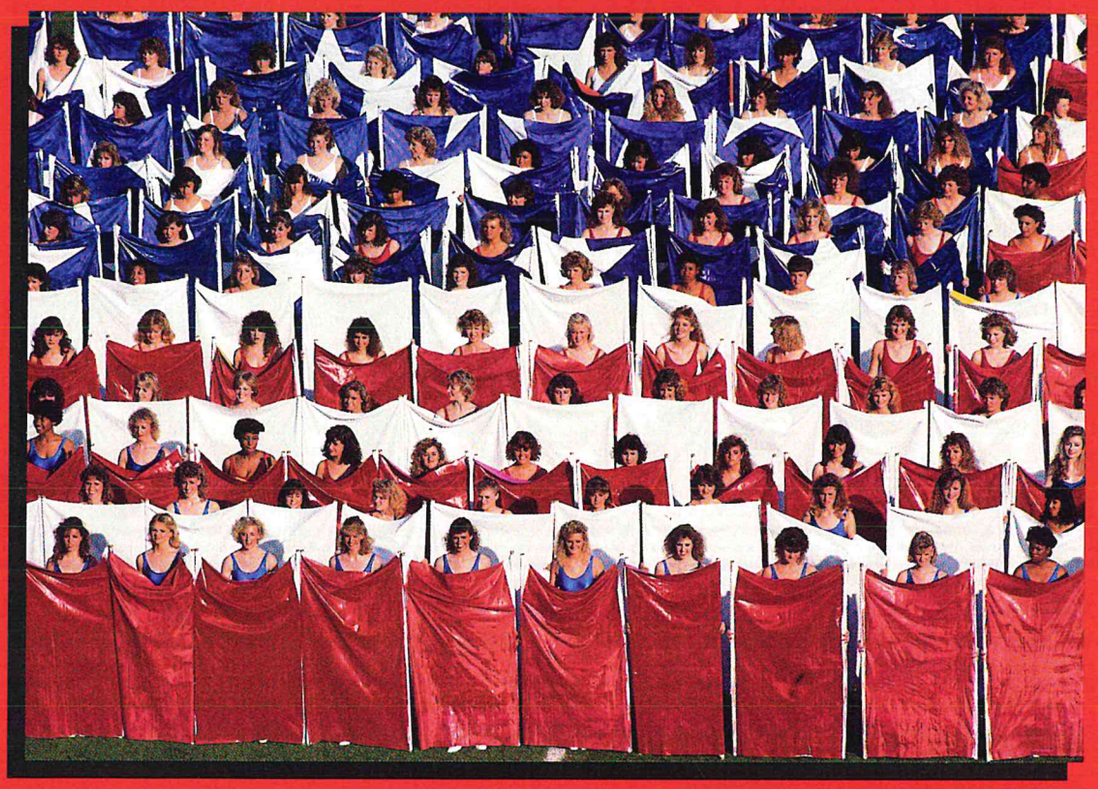
1990 REPLAY



Week-by-Week
Review of the Season
in Words and Photographs

★

By Jim Perry

Sorry About Your Seats.

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Week 1 ★XXV★ September 9

At halftime of opening day, the Raiders gathered in the locker room of the Los Angeles Coliseum, trailing defending AFC-champion Denver 6-0. The temperature on the field was 99 degrees, and the defenses were just as hot. The offenses were anything but.

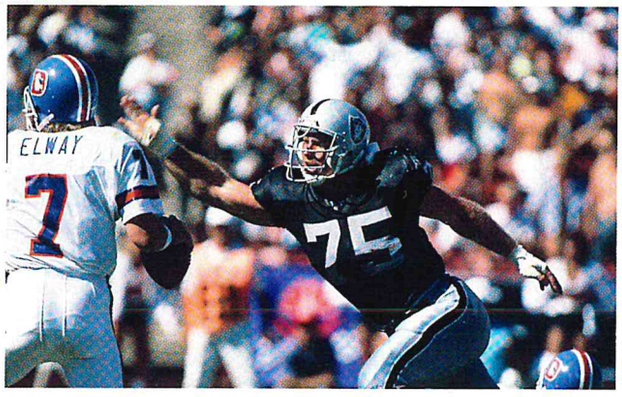
In the defensive meeting, safety Mike Harden spoke up. "The way things are going, we have to score on defense," he said.

"Before you knew it," Raiders linebacker Jerry Robinson said later, "I was in the end zone, and then [cornerback] Terry McDaniel was in the end zone."

And, before you knew it, the Raiders had beaten Denver 14-9 on two defensive touchdowns on an opening day in which defenses dominated all over the NFL.

As the league kicked off its seventy-first season, defensive players scored 8 touchdowns and a safety, the Bears and Redskins threw shutouts, the Raiders, Browns, and 49ers held their opponents without touchdowns, and quarterbacks splashed under waves of tacklers all over the league.

Considering their opponent, the Raiders' performance may have been the most spectacular. Los Angeles sacked John Elway 5 times, forced 4 turnovers, held the Broncos to 196 yards, and chased Elway around so much, he went to the sideline suffering from heat prostration in the fourth quarter.



David Boss

Howie Long sacked Denver's John Elway twice, while the Raiders' defense scored 2 touchdowns in a 14-9 victory.

In the middle of the third quarter, end Greg Townsend chased Elway back into his own end zone, and the Broncos' quarterback rushed a short pass. Robinson caught it and returned it 5 yards for a touchdown.

Moments later, Elway completed a pass to Vance Johnson, who was hit first by cornerback Garry Lewis, and then safety Eddie Anderson, who popped the ball loose. McDaniel scooped it up and returned it 42 yards for the winning touchdown.

In Chicago, the Bears' defense—led by strong safety Shaun Gayle—held Seattle to 132 yards and 6 first downs as the Bears won 17-0. The Seahawks never drove past the Chicago 45-yard line.

"I'm elated by what we accomplished," head coach Mike Ditka said. "It was an example of playing hard with nothing fancy. The defense was awesome."

The offense wasn't bad, either, as Neal Anderson ran for 101 yards and 2 touchdowns, and Jim Harbaugh completed 21 of 29 passes.

Washington, which shut out Seattle in the last game of 1989, opened with another blank, routing Phoenix and new head coach Joe Bugel 31-0. (Bugel had been an assistant with the Redskins for 15 years before he took the Phoenix job early this year.) It was the Redskins' sixth regular-season win in a row.

Washington intercepted 4 passes by Timm Rosenbach in the game—2 by cornerback Martin Mayhew—and each theft led to a touchdown, including safety Alvin Walton's 57-yard return. On offense, Mark Rypien fired 3 touchdown passes.

On Monday night, New Orleans sacked San Francisco's Joe Montana 6 times in the first 58½ minutes. Unfortunately for the Saints, Montana stayed upright in the last 1½, leading a 60-yard drive that set up Mike Cofer's 38-yard field goal that won the game 13-12 for the defending Super Bowl champions with 9 seconds left. Mon-

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	1	0	0
Buffalo	1	0	0
Indianapolis	0	1	0
New England	0	1	0
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	1	0	0
Cleveland	1	0	0
Houston	0	1	0
Pittsburgh	0	1	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	1	0	0
L.A. Raiders	1	0	0
Denver	0	1	0
San Diego	0	1	0
Seattle	0	1	0

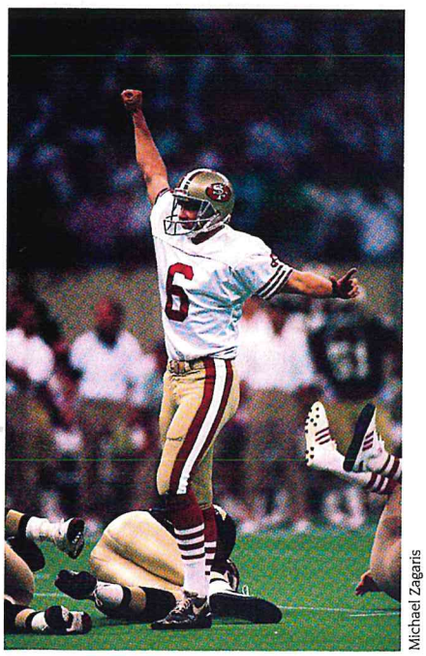
NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	1	0	0
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0
Washington	1	0	0
Philadelphia	0	1	0
Phoenix	0	1	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	1	0	0
Green Bay	1	0	0
Tampa Bay	1	0	0
Detroit	0	1	0
Minnesota	0	1	0
NFC West			
Atlanta	1	0	0
San Francisco	1	0	0
L.A. Rams	0	1	0
New Orleans	0	1	0

Scores

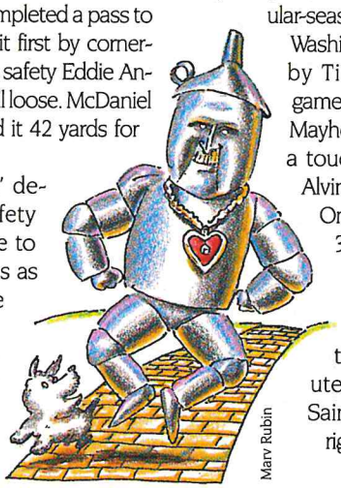
AFC
Buffalo 26, Indianapolis 10
Cincinnati 25, N.Y. Jets 20
Cleveland 13, Pittsburgh 3
L.A. Raiders 14, Denver 9
Miami 27, New England 24

NFC
Green Bay 36, L.A. Rams 24
N.Y. Giants 27, Philadelphia 20
San Francisco 13, New Orleans 12
Tampa Bay 38, Detroit 21
Washington 31, Phoenix 0

Interconference
Atlanta 47, Houston 27
Dallas 17, San Diego 14
Chicago 17, Seattle 0
Kansas City 24, Minnesota 21


Michael Zagaris

Mike Cofer's kick won for the 49ers.


Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Bears head coach **Mike Ditka**, asked how he decided to start Jim Harbaugh at quarterback in the season opener: "I went to Oz and saw the wizard."

tana zipped a 20-yard pass to Jerry Rice to set up the kick.

Morten Andersen had given New Orleans a 12-10 lead with 4 field goals, but the Saints couldn't make a first down on their last four series. San Francisco cornerback Darryl Pollard and safety Ronnie Lott each stopped Saints drives with interceptions.

The victory was San Francisco's eleventh in a row on the road, tying the NFL record.

In Pittsburgh, the Steelers sacked Bernie Kosar 7 times and held the Browns to 158 total yards. But Cleveland and its defense won anyway, 13-3. In the third quarter, linebacker Mike Johnson stripped the ball from Pittsburgh's Merril Hoge, and cornerback Tony Blaylock picked it up and ran 30 yards for the game's only touchdown.

"The ball popped out and it just bounced right to me," Blaylock said. "I said, 'Oh, thank God, thank God.'"

The Giants were thankful, too—thankful that they ended their four-game losing streak against NFC rival Philadelphia. New York won 27-20, rallying from a 10-6 halftime deficit with 21 successive second-half points.

The 3-touchdown outburst included Phil Simms's scoring passes to rookie running back Rodney Hampton and wide receiver Mark Ingram, sandwiched around David Meggett's 68-yard punt return.

Basic Black a Winning Color

When colorful Jerry Glanville left Houston to take over as head coach of the Atlanta Falcons in early 1990, he announced the team's laid-back days were over.

"Anybody who's been watching us in a rocking chair can throw that away," Glanville said. "You could flip out of that chair before we get done because we're going to attack people on both sides of the football."

Before a boisterous crowd in Atlanta on opening day, Glanville's Falcons—who were unbeaten in the preseason—attacked his old team, Houston, on both sides of the ball. When the assault was over, the Back-in-Black Falcons had won 47-27. It could have been worse. Atlanta led 37-7 early in the fourth quarter.

"I don't think it was an accident, what happened," Glanville said. "We out-hustled them, we definitely out-conditioned them, and I don't think there was any question we out-hit them. We were thrilled to death with the results."

He also was thrilled to death with the team's rejuvenated defense, which scored 3 touchdowns.

Gin Ellis

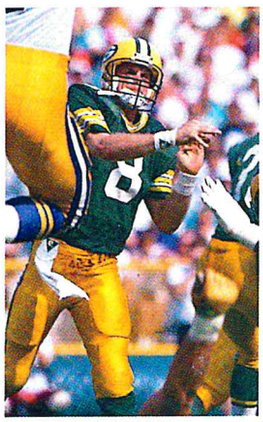
Atlanta and Steve Broussard (34) romped.

In the first quarter, linebacker Aundray Bruce blindsided Houston quarterback Warren Moon and forced a fumble, which cornerback Bobby Butler recovered in the end zone for a touchdown. Linebacker John Tuggle tackled Moon on a running play later in the same quarter and forced another fumble, which he picked up and carried 65 yards for another touchdown. Then, in the last minute, cornerback Deion Sanders intercepted a pass by Moon and high-stepped 82 yards for the final touchdown.

Glanville was the only new head coach to win on opening day. Losing were New England's Rod Rust, the Jets' Bruce Coslet, Phoenix's Joe Bugel...and Houston's Jack Pardee.

An emotional man, Glanville saw the big victory as a payback for a college team. In 1989, Pardee's University of Houston team routed freshman-filled SMU 95-21. After the game, Glanville awarded a game ball to SMU and its head coach, Hall of Fame tackle Forrest Gregg.

Players of the Week



Brian Spurlock

Packers' Anthony Dilweg

AFC OFFENSE—**Sammie Smith**, *running back, Miami*
Smith rushed for a career-high 159 yards and a touchdown to help the Dolphins rally to post a 27-24 victory over New England.

AFC DEFENSE—**David Fulcher**, *safety, Cincinnati*
Fulcher made 10 tackles, sacked the Jets' Ken O'Brien for a safety, and ended New York's final threat with a leaping interception in the end zone to spark Cincinnati's 25-20 victory. Nine of Fulcher's tackles were unassisted.

NFC OFFENSE—**Anthony Dilweg**, *quarterback, Green Bay*
Dilweg threw 3 touchdown passes—2 to tight end Ed West—to lead the Packers to a 36-24 victory over the Rams in his first NFL start. He had replaced Don Majkowski, a late signee.

NFC DEFENSE—**Lawrence Taylor**, *linebacker, New York Giants*
Taylor, who signed his contract and reported just four days before the game, had 7 tackles, including 3 sacks, and forced a fumble as the Giants stopped the Eagles 27-20.

Dave Cross

Dolphins' Sammie Smith

Tampa Bay was impressive both offensively and defensively, slapping down the Lions 38-21 in the Silverdome. Detroit had won nine games in a row—the last five in 1989 and all four preseason games.

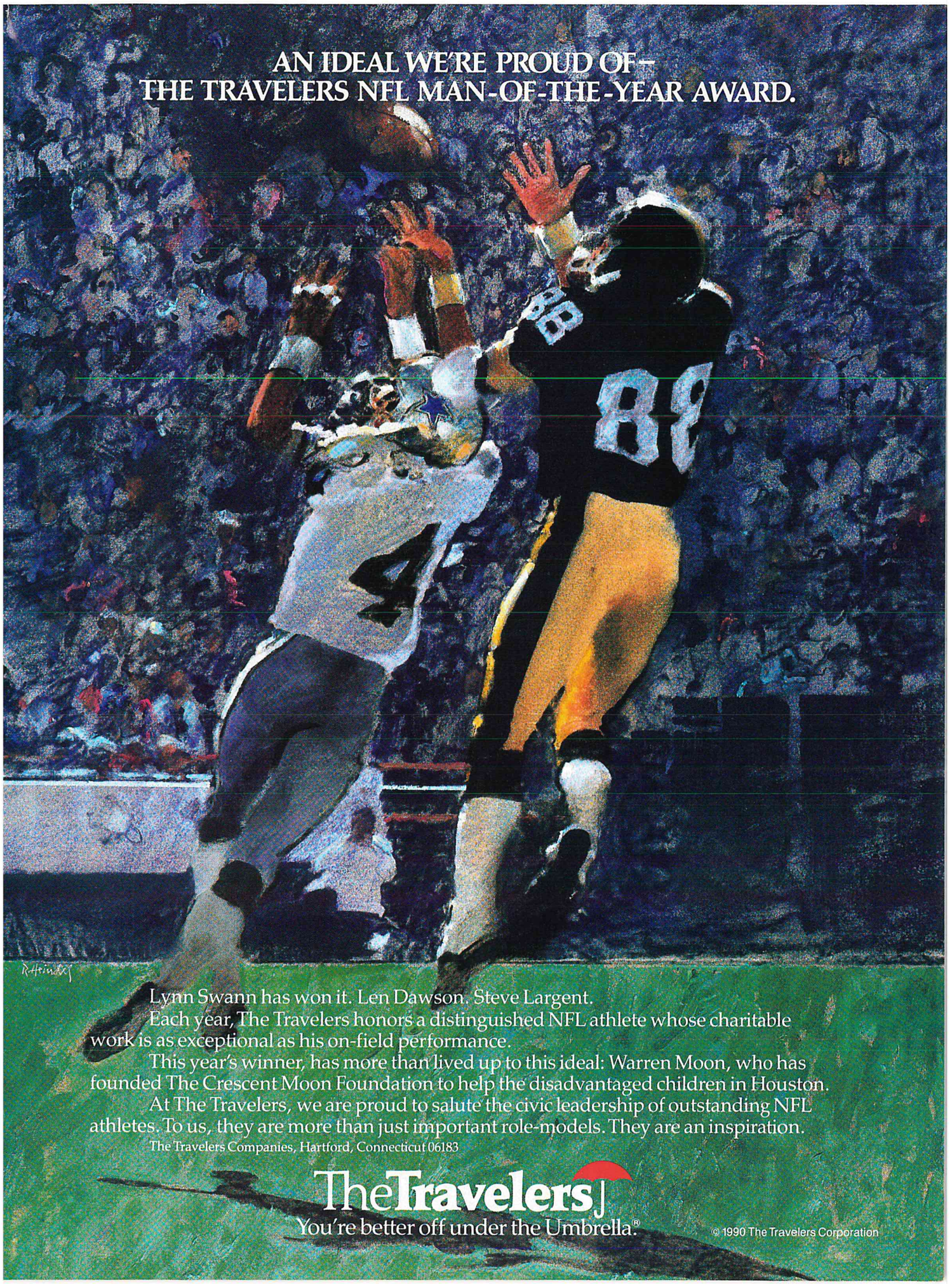
"I'm angry, and the guys know I'm angry," Lions head coach Wayne Fontes said. "We got pushed around more than we should have."

Tampa Bay's Vinny Testaverde did a lot of the pushing, throwing 3 touchdown passes, while Gary Anderson, who sat out the entire 1989 season in a contract dispute with San Diego, ran for 74 yards and caught 6 passes for 79 more, including a touchdown.

The defense sacked Detroit's quarterbacks 6 times (3 by linebacker Ervin Randle) and forced 6 turnovers.

Dallas had lost 14 home games in a row, heading for 15 when the Cowboys got a most unlikely break. The Chargers were leading 14-10 with just over five minutes left when head coach Dan Henning gambled and called for a fake punt play on fourth-and-6 from the Dallas 48. The ball was snapped to upback Gary Plummer—normally a linebacker—but he was held to a 2-yard gain.

The Cowboys happily took the ball near midfield and drove for the winning touchdown, which quarterback Troy Aikman scored on a 1-yard sneak with 1:58 left.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★XXV★ Week 2 September 16

When the season began, Don Shula and the Miami Dolphins had not been to the playoffs since 1985. For the Dolphins—who had won nine division titles under Shula—first place was a distant memory.

So, Shula was understandably elated when his improving team pounded two-time AFC East champion Buffalo 30-7 to stay unbeaten through the season's first two weeks. "We're the only undefeated team in the AFC East, and *that feels good*," he said.

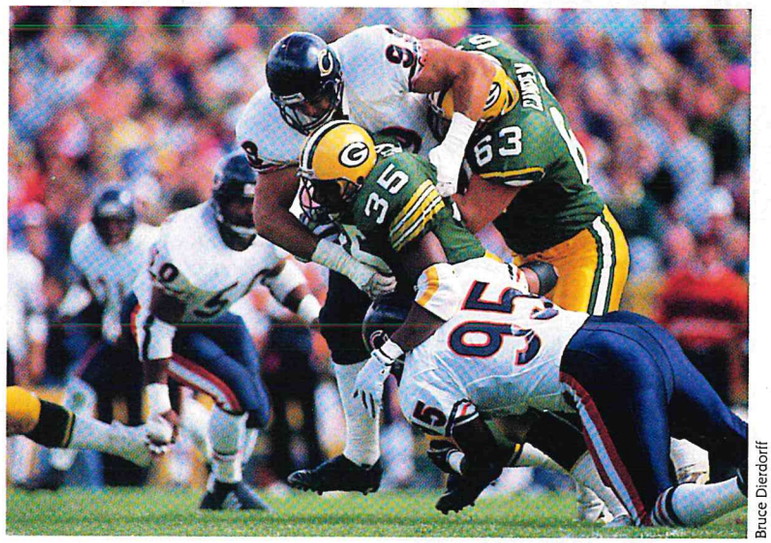
It was the first time Miami was alone on top of the division since 1985. First place was uncrowded around the rest of the NFL, too. Only one unbeaten team was left in each division—San Francisco, Chicago, and the New York Giants in the NFC; and Cincinnati, the Los Angeles Raiders, and Miami in the AFC.

Miami's victory not only was important for the team, it was an historic win for Shula, too, because it was his 200th as head coach of the Dolphins. (In his entire career, he had 287 victories, second most in NFL history.)

What did 200 wins mean to him?

"That just tells you I'm old," he said. "I realize 200 is important to someday look back on, but right now I feel good about this team being where it is at 2-0."

The Dolphins, who had lost six in a row to the Bills, got 2 short touchdown runs from Sammie Smith and an 18-for-26 passing day from Dan Marino. The defense forced 3 turnovers to set up 2 field goals and a touchdown.



Bruce Dierdorff

Bears' Dan Hampton (99) and Richard Dent stifled Green Bay.

In Green Bay, the Bears' defense was ferocious for the second successive week in a 31-13 blitz of the Packers. Defensive end Trace Armstrong had 2 sacks, 2 forced fumbles, and a fumble recovery to set up a touchdown. Defensive end Richard Dent also had 2 sacks, and linebackers Ron Rivera and Jim Morrissey also recovered fumbles that led to touchdowns.

"We really had every intention to try to get a shutout," said Chicago defensive tackle Dan Hampton.

In San Francisco, the 49ers ran their combined regular-season and playoff winning streak to 10 games with an impressive 26-13 victory over the Redskins. The loss snapped Washington's six-game regular-season winning streak.

"This was the best we've played since the Super Bowl," head coach George Seifert said.

Joe Montana was in Super Bowl form, passing for 390 yards, including 12- and 49-yard touchdown strikes to wide receivers Jerry Rice and John Taylor. Montana also zoomed by John Brodie (31,548 yards) to become the number-one passer in 49ers history (31,654 at the end of the game). Taylor caught 8 passes for 160 yards.

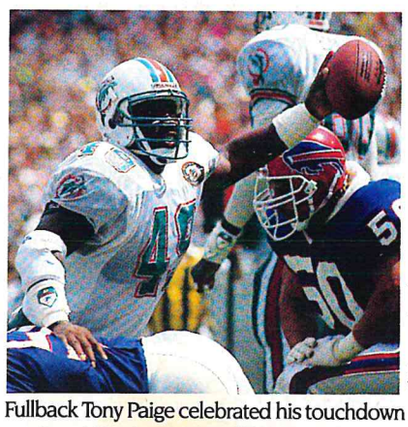
The Rams' Jim Everett was another hot passer, bombing Tampa Bay for 4 touchdown passes (2 of them to running back Robert Delpino and 1 each to Henry Ellard and running back Buford McGee) as Los Angeles won in Florida 35-14.

Cornerback Bobby Humphery gave the Rams a big lift on the last play of the first half by carrying an interception 44 yards for a touchdown.

Cincinnati's Lewis Billups also had a big interception as the Bengals overcame a 13-0 first-quarter deficit to win 21-16 in San Diego. The Chargers still led 16-14 late in the third quarter, but quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver was intercepted by Billups on the Cincinnati 2.

The Bengals' cornerback returned the ball to the 31, and Boomer Esiason drove the team 69 yards for the winning touchdown, which he got with a 23-yard pass to Eddie Brown on a third-and-20 play.

Bengals kicker Jim Breech, who made three



Al Messerschmidt

Fullback Tony Paige celebrated his touchdown catch as Miami routed Buffalo.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Miami	2	0	0
Buffalo	1	1	0
New England	1	1	0
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0
Indianapolis	0	2	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	2	0	0
Cleveland	1	1	0
Pittsburgh	1	1	0
Houston	0	2	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	2	0	0
Denver	1	1	0
Kansas City	1	1	0
San Diego	0	2	0
Seattle	0	2	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	2	0	0
Dallas	1	1	0
Phoenix	1	1	0
Washington	1	1	0
Philadelphia	0	2	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	2	0	0
Detroit	1	1	0
Green Bay	1	1	0
Minnesota	1	1	0
Tampa Bay	1	1	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	2	0	0
Atlanta	1	1	0
L.A. Rams	1	1	0
New Orleans	0	2	0

Scores

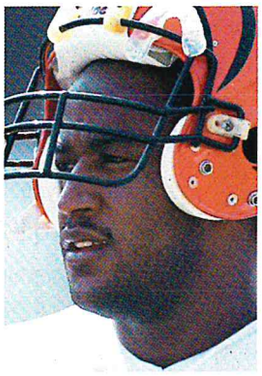
AFC

Cincinnati 21, San Diego 16
Denver 24, Kansas City 23
L.A. Raiders 17, Seattle 13
Miami 30, Buffalo 7
New England 16, Indianapolis 14
N.Y. Jets 24, Cleveland 21
Pittsburgh 20, Houston 9

NFC

Chicago 31, Green Bay 13
Detroit 21, Atlanta 14
L.A. Rams 35, Tampa Bay 14
Minnesota 32, New Orleans 3
N.Y. Giants 28, Dallas 7
Phoenix 23, Philadelphia 21
San Francisco 26, Washington 13

Players of the Week



Peter Brouillet

Bengals' Eddie Brown

AFC OFFENSE—**Eddie Brown**, *wide receiver, Cincinnati*

Brown caught 10 passes for 178 yards, including 30- and 23-yard touchdown passes from Boomer Esiason, as the Bengals defeated the Chargers 21-16.

AFC DEFENSE—**Rod Woodson**, *cornerback, Pittsburgh*

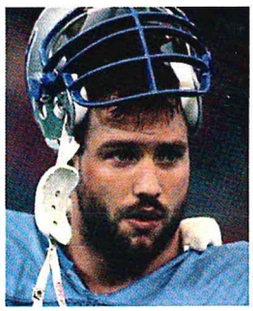
Woodson had 6 solo tackles, broke up a pass, and returned a punt 52 yards for a touchdown in the Steelers' 20-9 victory over Houston.

NFC OFFENSE—**Joe Montana**, *quarterback, San Francisco*

Montana passed for 390 yards and two touchdowns as the 49ers overpowered the Redskins 26-13.

NFC DEFENSE—**Chris Spielman**, *linebacker, Detroit*

Despite aggravating a shoulder injury—he had arthroscopic surgery three days later and was placed on injured reserve—Spielman made 12 tackles (10 of them solos), had 1 sack, and recovered a fumble to help the Lions hold off the Falcons 21-14.



Pete J. Groh

Lions' Chris Spielman

extra points, scored in his 151st consecutive game to tie Fred Cox's NFL record, while Marion Butts rushed for 103 yards to lead a Chargers attack that gained 417 yards.

"We're not a dominating team that's going to blow people away," Cincinnati head coach Sam Wyche said. "But we're determined to win."

Also determined to win were three new head coaches—Bruce Coslet of the Jets, Joe Bugel of the Cardinals, and Rod Rust of the Patriots—and they all succeeded in getting their first victories.

Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Jets center **Jim Sweeney**, asked about 10-year veteran Freeman McNeil, who gained 142 yards rushing and receiving against Cleveland: "He was out with Ponce de Leon last night."

The Jets started off on the wrong foot, immediately falling behind the Browns when Eric Metcalf returned the opening kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown. But New York scored 24 successive points for a 24-7 halftime lead and won 24-21.

Ten-year veteran Freeman McNeil, who was waived, then re-signed before the regular season, rushed for 62 yards and a touchdown and caught 3 passes for 80 yards, including a 59-yarder that set up another touchdown.

In Indianapolis, another elder statesman, 37-year-old Steve Grogan of New England, completed 9 of 12 third-down passes to lead the Patriots past the Colts 16-14. John Stephens had 147 yards rushing and receiving.

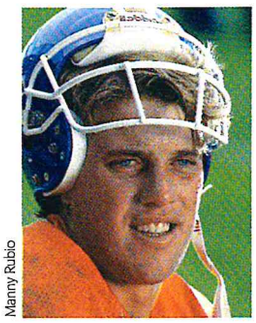
The Colts' 22-year-old quarterback, Jeff George, the NFL's number-one draft choice, was sacked twice and intercepted 4 times, twice by cornerback Maurice Hurst.

In Philadelphia, the Cardinals fell behind the Eagles 14-0, but rallied to win 23-21 behind second-year quarterback Timm Rosenbach, who kept three scoring drives alive with his running. Rookie Johnny Johnson rushed for 88 yards and Al Del Greco kicked 3 fourth-quarter field goals, including one from 50 yards with 4:44 left and the game-winner from 42 yards with 25 seconds left.

"We kept thinking, 'Let's keep them from a touchdown,'" Eagles defensive tackle Jerome Brown said. "I'll be damned if he didn't keep on kicking field goals."

In Minneapolis, the Vikings intercepted 4 passes by John Fourcade and former Viking Tommy Kramer to overwhelm the Saints 32-3. While New Orleans had yet to score a touchdown in 1990, Minnesota's Wade Wilson passed for 3 scores and linebacker Mike Merriweather set up 10 points with 73- and 12-yard interception returns.

One Shot Left... Elway Doesn't Miss



Manny Rubio

John Elway

On Monday night in Denver, the situation looked bleak for the Broncos. Trailing Kansas City 23-21, they had the ball, fourth-down-and-10 on their own 17-yard line with just over a minute left. And John Elway had missed his last 10 passes.

Did Elway throw a cautious, 10-yard pass to try to get the first down?

No, he drilled a 49-yard strike to Vance Johnson, and the Broncos were on their way to a thrilling, last-second 24-23 victory. A loss would have left them 0-2.

"Elway's a great competitor," Chiefs quarterback Steve DeBerg said. "That fourth down play was amazing."

After the Elway-Johnson connection reached the Chiefs' 34, Elway threw 16 yards to Mark Jackson, and Bobby Humphrey ran 14 yards to the 4 to set up David Treadwell's 22-yard field goal on the last play.

"The game had everything in it—the good, the bad, and the ugly," Broncos head coach Dan Reeves said. "Thank goodness we came out on top."

Of course, it looked as if it was going to be a lot easier. Behind Humphrey, who ran for 132 yards and 2 touchdowns, the Broncos were breezing 21-9 with 10 minutes left. But Chiefs cornerback Albert Lewis blocked the seventh punt of his NFL career (including playoffs), and DeBerg threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Stephone Paige to trim the lead to 21-16, two plays later.

Then, with 1:44 left, DeBerg and Paige combined on an 83-yard touchdown pass to take a 23-21 lead. Paige, who caught 10 passes for 206 yards, broke a tackle and streaked the last 60 yards untouched. For the night, DeBerg passed for 395 yards.

But Elway had one more chance.

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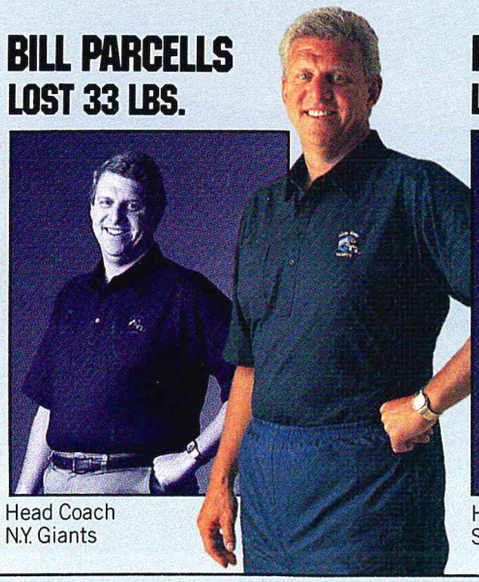
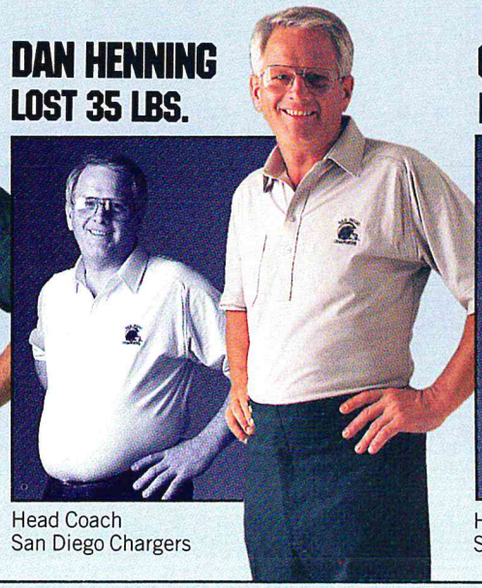
BILL PARCELLS
LOST 33 LBS.



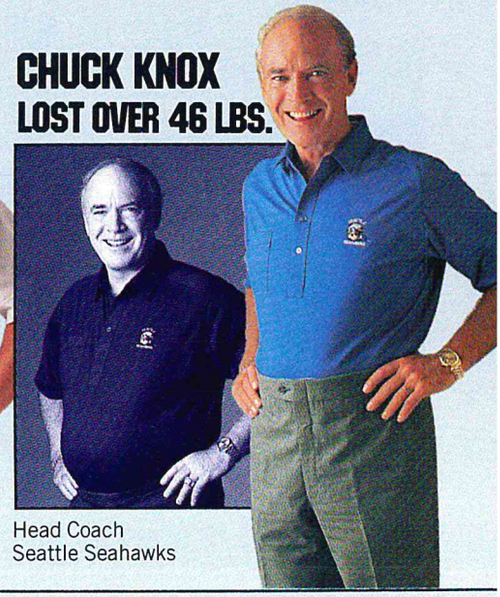
Head Coach
N.Y. Giants

DAN HENNING
LOST 35 LBS.



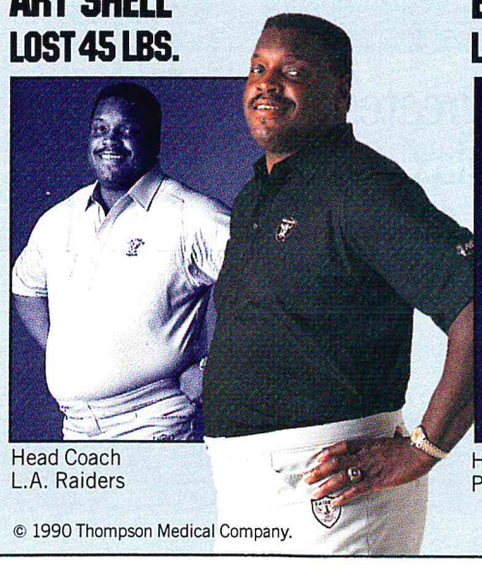
Head Coach
San Diego Chargers

CHUCK KNOX
LOST OVER 46 LBS.



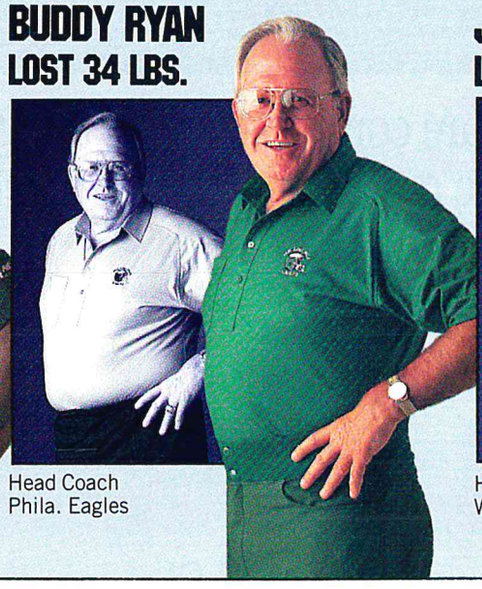
Head Coach
Seattle Seahawks

ART SHELL
LOST 45 LBS.



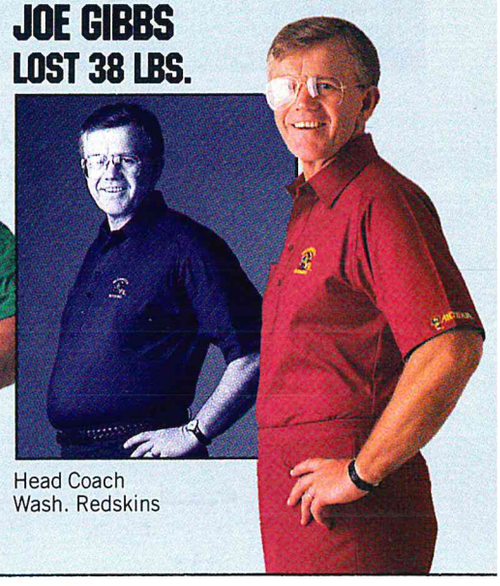
Head Coach
L.A. Raiders

BUDDY RYAN
LOST 34 LBS.



Head Coach
Phila. Eagles

JOE GIBBS
LOST 38 LBS.



Head Coach
Wash. Redskins

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★XXV★ Week 3 September 23

It's a cliche, but it's true: Defense wins championships. To which the Giants, Raiders, Bears, 49ers, and Bengals all said after three weeks of the 1990 season: We hope so.

The five teams were ranked in the top six in the NFL in scoring defense...and all five had begun the season 3-0. The Raiders (25 points allowed), Bears (29), and Giants (30) were especially stingy, but the 49ers (38) and Bengals (43) weren't far behind.

It wasn't safe to be near these guys with a football, as Dan Marino and the Dolphins found out in Giants Stadium. New York controlled the ball on offense and played fiercely on defense to hand Miami its first loss, 20-3.

The Giants held the Dolphins to 7 first downs and 158 total yards, allowing Miami past its own 45 just once, when the Dolphins scored on Pete Stoyanovich's 51-yard field goal. Linebacker Lawrence Taylor set up a critical fourth-quarter touchdown with a fumble recovery on the Miami 11.

"If we can contain teams the way we did today," Giants defensive end Leonard Marshall said, "There's no telling how far we can go."

New York's offense kept the ball for 40 minutes as Ottis Anderson ground out 72 yards and scored twice. Anderson, who turned 33 in November, passed Earl Campbell for eighth place on the NFL's all-time rushing list with 9,433 yards.

In Los Angeles, the Raiders played without Pro Bowl defensive end Howie Long, who had suffered a broken foot the week before. Still, they overwhelmed Pittsburgh, sacking Bubby Brister 6 times, recovering 2 fumbles, and intercepting a pass in another 20-3 victory.

"Just because Howie's gone doesn't mean our defense can't play well," defensive end Greg Townsend said.

The Raiders' offense clinched it with two fourth quarter touchdowns—Marcus Allen's 1-yard run and Jay Schroeder's 66-yard pass to Mervyn Fernandez. The victory ran Art Shell's home head coaching record to 8-0.

In Cincinnati, the Bengals sacked Marc Wilson 6 times and forced 5 turnovers in routing the Patriots 41-7. Cornerback Lewis Billups intercepted a pass by Wilson on the game's first play, Jim Breech kicked a 46-yard field goal, and Cincinnati was off and running—or rather, passing. Boomer Esiason threw for 271 yards and 2 touchdowns, and tight end Rodney Holman caught 2 scoring passes, 1 each from Esiason and holder Lee Johnson on a fake field-goal play.

George Golkovich

Linebacker Kurt Gouveia (on the ground) dragged down Alonzo Highsmith as Washington dropped Dallas 19-15.

Breech, who finished with 2 field goals and 5 extra points, set an NFL record by scoring in his 152nd successive game. He and Minnesota's Fred Cox had shared the old record.

In Chicago, the Bears got the Vikings out of the way very late, as Kevin Butler kicked a 52-yard field goal with four seconds left in a dramatic 19-16 victory. The Bears rushed for 215 yards in the game, including 91 and a touchdown by Neal Anderson and 90 by Brad Muster, but they were very lucky at the end.

After Wade Wilson tied the score at 16-16 with a 17-yard touchdown pass to Hassan Jones with 1:55 left, both teams failed to move, and overtime was on the way. But, with 25 seconds left, Vikings punter Harry New-

Players of the Week

David Drapkin

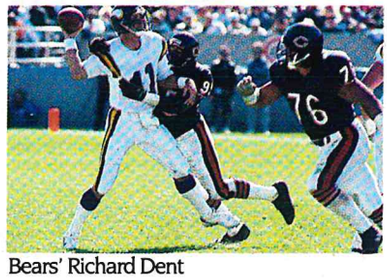
Bills' Thurman Thomas

NFC OFFENSE—**Jerry Rice**, *wide receiver, San Francisco*
Rice caught 8 passes for 171 yards and a touchdown in the 49ers' 19-13 victory over the Falcons.

NFC DEFENSE—**Richard Dent**, *end, Chicago*
Dent made 4 tackles, including a sack, broke up 2 passes, and intercepted another to set up a field goal as the Bears edged the Vikings 19-16.

AFC OFFENSE—**Thurman Thomas**, *running back, Buffalo*
Breaking loose for non-scoring runs of 60, 39, 24, 15, and 15 yards, Thomas rushed for 214 yards on just 18 carries as the Bills pounded the Jets 30-7.

AFC DEFENSE—**Kevin Ross**, *cornerback, Kansas City*
Ross intercepted a pass, forced a fumble to stop a drive at the Chiefs' 1-yard line, recovered another fumble, made 2 tackles, and helped hold Green Bay's explosive Sterling Sharpe to 3 catches for 35 yards as the Chiefs defeated the Packers 17-3.


Spinelli/NFLP

Bears' Richard Dent

Week 3★

Reincarnation of a Saint

Ron Vesely

Rueben Mayes

In 1986, Rueben Mayes was the NFL rookie of the year. He ran for 1,353 yards and 8 touchdowns, earned a Pro Bowl berth, and had six 100-yard games.

He also had postseason surgery on his Achilles tendon, which was just the start of the bad news. It turned out to be the first of three operations in four years that began to undermine his career.

The Saints' running back rushed for 917 yards and another Pro Bowl berth in 1987, but again had postseason surgery, this time for torn knee ligaments. His rushing total fell to 628 yards in 1988 and zero in 1989, when he sat out the entire season following another operation on his Achilles tendon.

We now move to the third game of the 1990 season, where, after two games, a tentative Mayes had rushed for a total of 22 yards and was playing behind both Dalton Hilliard and former Canadian Football League back Gill Fenerty. His team wasn't going anywhere, either. Off to an 0-2 start, the Saints were tied 7-7 with Phoenix early in the third quarter.

But Fenerty went to the sideline with an injured calf, Hilliard got a rest...and Mayes got a chance to play. Suddenly it was 1986 all over again.

In the second half, Mayes ran for 99 yards on 16 carries, scored 3 touchdowns on runs of 10, 4, and 14 yards, and led the Saints to a 28-7 victory over the astonished Cardinals. On the final drive, he carried 9 times for 58 yards.

"I felt like I found another gear, the gear I had been looking for," Mayes said. "This time I just ran and reacted. After today, I feel like I'm over the hump."

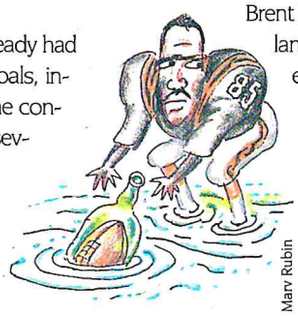
Mayes had been in good shape physically—he missed only one practice all summer—but he had been away from the game for a year.

"I was just out of sync," he told Larry McMillen of the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. "I was just a click away, and it was frustrating—very frustrating. You don't know how good this feels."

some fumbled the snap and fell on the ball, which gave the Bears possession on the Minnesota 39. On third down, with 15 seconds left, the Bears' Jim Harbaugh was almost intercepted, but linebacker Scott Studwell dropped the pass.

In came Butler, who already had kicked three other field goals, including a 51-yarder, and he connected again. It was his seventh game-winning kick in eight career tries.

The Vikings suffered a double loss. Wilson tore ligaments in the thumb of his passing hand on Minnesota's last offensive play, had surgery, and figured to be out a minimum of four weeks.



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Wide-open Bengals receiver **Tim McGee**, describing his 52-yard catch of a slow-to-arrive Boomer Esiason pass:

"It was like being on an island with nobody around."

In San Francisco, the 49ers ran their winning streak to 11 in a row with a tense 19-13 victory over the Falcons. Joe Montana passed for 398 yards and 2 touchdowns—a 35-yard strike to Jerry Rice and a 67-yard bomb to Brent Jones—and the defense sacked Atlanta's Chris Miller 4 times, intercepted him twice, and chased him out of the end zone for a safety.

Atlanta refused to fold, however. Miller passed for 337 yards and a touchdown, Andre Rison caught 11 passes, and rookie nose tackle Tory Epps blocked two field goals.

Two winless 1989 playoff teams—the Eagles and Oilers—posted their first victories.

Randall Cunningham passed for a pair of touchdowns and ran for 44 yards, and Anthony Toney ran for 103 yards as the Eagles beat the Rams 27-21.

"Cunningham was magnificent," Rams head coach John Robinson said.

The adjective fit Warren Moon, too. Moon passed for 308 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 2 to running back Lorenzo White, as Houston stopped the Colts 24-10. Moon walked off with 19,289 passing yards in his Oilers career, breaking the team record held by George Blanda.

Washington lost quarterback Mark Rypien for six to eight weeks when he suffered partially torn knee ligaments in a 19-15 victory over Dallas. Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman suffered only hurt feelings as the Redskins sacked him 9 times and cornerback Darrell Green returned an interception 18 yards for a score.

In Denver, there was a sense of *deja vu*. In 1989, the Broncos' David Treadwell beat Seattle with an overtime field goal after Seahawks kicker Norm Johnson had missed earlier in the period. This time the two teams were tied 31-31 when Johnson missed from 39 yards with three seconds left in regulation, missed from 44 yards in overtime, and then watched in disgust as Treadwell hit a 25-yarder to win it again, 34-31.

Denver's John Elway passed for 3 touchdowns, including 2 to Mark Jackson, and Bobby Humphrey ran for 129 yards. Seattle's Derrick Fenner ran for 144 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Jon Hayt

Gary Anderson's running and pass catching helped Tampa Bay edge Detroit 23-20.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	2	1	0
Miami	2	1	0
New England	1	2	0
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0
Indianapolis	0	3	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	3	0	0
Cleveland	1	2	0
Houston	1	2	0
Pittsburgh	1	2	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	3	0	0
Denver	2	1	0
Kansas City	2	1	0
San Diego	1	2	0
Seattle	0	3	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	3	0	0
Washington	2	1	0
Dallas	1	2	0
Philadelphia	1	2	0
Phoenix	1	2	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	3	0	0
Tampa Bay	2	1	0
Detroit	1	2	0
Green Bay	1	2	0
Minnesota	1	2	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	3	0	0
Atlanta	1	2	0
L.A. Rams	1	2	0
New Orleans	1	2	0

Scores

AFC

Buffalo 30, N.Y. Jets 7
Cincinnati 41, New England 7
Denver 34, Seattle 31 (OT)
Houston 24, Indianapolis 10
L.A. Raiders 20, Pittsburgh 3
San Diego 24, Cleveland 14

NFC

Chicago 19, Minnesota 16
New Orleans 28, Phoenix 7
Philadelphia 27, L.A. Rams 21
San Francisco 19, Atlanta 13
Tampa Bay 23, Detroit 20
Washington 19, Dallas 15

Interconference

Kansas City 17, Green Bay 3
N.Y. Giants 20, Miami 3

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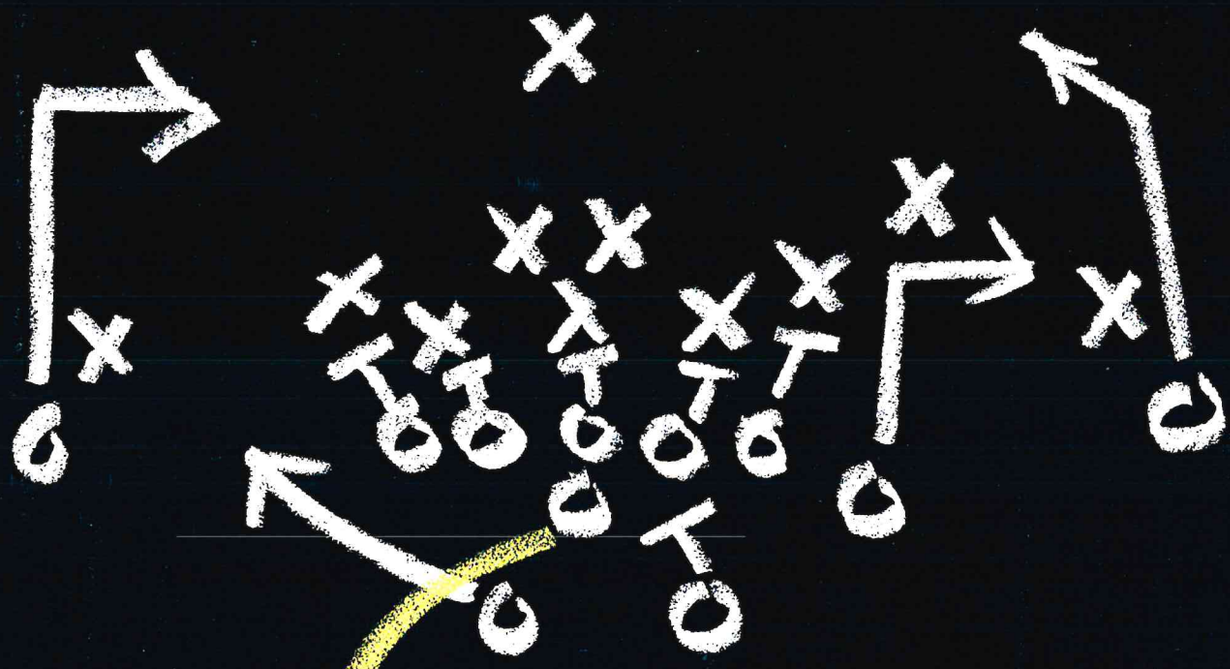

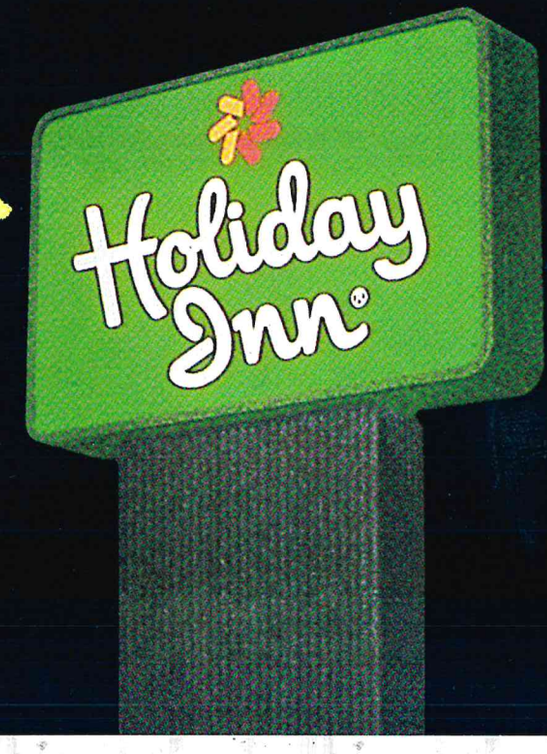

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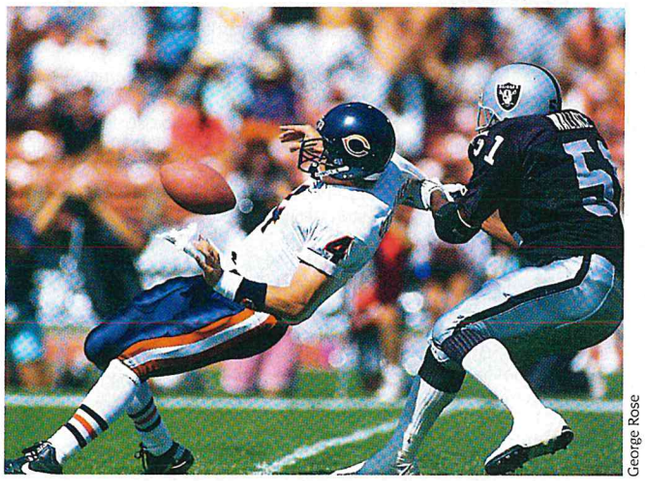
Week 4 ★XXV★ September 30

Dan Reeves tried to be philosophical—it was the only way he could keep his sanity.

"It was one of those crazy games," he said. "If you've been around [football] long enough, you'll see everything."

However, the head coach of the Denver Broncos had seen a lot more than he wanted to see.

For nearly 50 minutes, his team had pushed the Buffalo Bills all over Rich Stadium, building a 21-9 lead on the running of Bobby Humphrey (177 yards and a touchdown), leadership of John Elway, and a stubborn defense.



George Rose

This sack of Chicago's Jim Harbaugh led to a Raiders' touchdown.

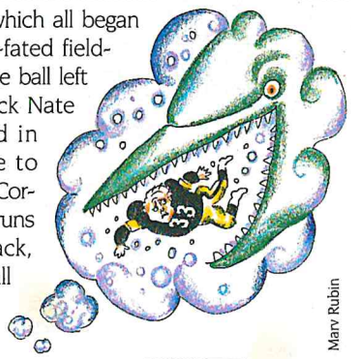
When David Treadwell lined up for a 24-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter, the lead was about to be 24-9.

But 77 seconds later, Buffalo had scored three touchdowns, was ahead 29-21, and went on to win 29-28.

It was the most shocking game in a weekend that was full of surprises. There were two fewer games—the four NFC West teams were off on the first bye weekend—but there were big upsets in Minneapolis and Philadelphia and a modest one in Seattle.

In Minneapolis, Tampa Bay stunned the Vikings in overtime; in Philadelphia, the Colts beat the Eagles on the game's last play; and in Seattle, the winless Seahawks hammered unbeaten Cincinnati.

But nothing matched the dramatic events in Buffalo, which all began with Treadwell's ill-fated field-goal attempt. As the ball left his foot, cornerback Nate Odomes zoomed in from the left side to block it. Linebacker Cornelius Bennett, who runs like a defensive back, scooped up the ball and raced 80 yards for a touchdown. Buffalo trailed only 21-16.



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Pittsburgh running back **Merril Hoge**, after his team was humiliated 28-6 by Miami: "I've had better nightmares than this."

Elway tried a pass on the second play after the kickoff, but it was tipped by defensive end Leon Seals, caught by safety Leonard Smith, and returned 39 yards for another touchdown. Now Buffalo had a 22-21 lead, despite missing the conversion.

A short kickoff return and penalty left the Broncos in trouble again at their own 5. Elway fumbled the first-down snap, lost it at his 2, and Bennett recovered. On first down, Kenneth Davis raced into the end zone, and the Bills led 29-21. The three touchdowns were scored in 1 minute, 17 seconds.

"I told our players, 'If you don't quit, sometimes you get lucky,'" Bills head coach Marv Levy said.

Tampa Bay, off to its best start since 1979, also got lucky, stunning the Vikings 23-20 on rookie Steve Christie's 36-yard overtime field goal. With 1:19 left in regulation, Rich Gannon, replacing injured Wade Wilson, threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to Hassan Jones to give the Vikings a 20-13 lead. But Vinny Testaverde—the NFL's leading passer after four weeks—drove the Buccaneers 74 yards to the tying touchdown, which he earned with an 11-yard pass to Bruce Hill with 24 seconds left.

Moments later, in overtime, Minnesota's Anthony Carter bobbled a Gannon pass, and it bounced off safety Mark Robinson's shoulder to cornerback Wayne Haddix, who intercepted on the Minnesota 26. On second down, Christie kicked his field goal.

The disappointing Vikings not only lost their third game in four

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	3	1	0
Miami	3	1	0
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0
Indianapolis	1	3	0
New England	1	3	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	3	1	0
Houston	2	2	0
Cleveland	1	3	0
Pittsburgh	1	3	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	4	0	0
Kansas City	3	1	0
Denver	2	2	0
San Diego	1	3	0
Seattle	1	3	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	4	0	0
Washington	3	1	0
Dallas	1	3	0
Philadelphia	1	3	0
Phoenix	1	3	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	3	1	0
Tampa Bay	3	1	0
Green Bay	2	2	0
Detroit	1	3	0
Minnesota	1	3	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	3	0	0
Atlanta	1	2	0
L.A. Rams	1	2	0
New Orleans	1	2	0

Scores

AFC
Buffalo 29, Denver 28
Houston 17, San Diego 7
Kansas City 34, Cleveland 0
Miami 28, Pittsburgh 6
N.Y. Jets 37, New England 13
Seattle 31, Cincinnati 16

NFC
Green Bay 24, Detroit 21
N.Y. Giants 31, Dallas 17
Tampa Bay 23, Minnesota 20 (OT)
Washington 38, Phoenix 10

Interconference
Indianapolis 24, Philadelphia 23
L.A. Raiders 24, Chicago 10

Ali Jorge

Randall Cunningham's (12) Eagles lost.

weeks (all by three points), they also lost Pro Bowl defensive tackle Keith Millard for the season with torn knee ligaments.

The Eagles were another 1989 playoff team off to a 1-3 start. They fell to a team they figured to beat, too, losing to Indianapolis 24-23 on Jack Trudeau's last-play, 6-yard touchdown pass to Bill Brooks. It was the Colts' first victory of the season.

Trudeau, who started for the injured Jeff George, rallied Indianapolis from a 20-10 third-quarter deficit, after the Eagles had gone ahead on the passing (274 yards, 2 touchdowns) and running (61 yards) of Randall Cunningham.

But the Colts' Albert Bentley raced 26 yards for one touchdown, and, after an Eagles' field goal made it 23-17, Trudeau completed 7 passes on the final, 82-yard drive. Brooks caught 6 of those 7 passes, making the winning catch with cornerback Izel Jenkins draped over his back. Dean Biasucci converted for the win.

"I've been in this business a long time," Eagles head coach Buddy Ryan said, "and I think this is the toughest loss I've ever had."

With the Bengals falling to the Seahawks in Seattle, there were just three unbeaten teams in the NFL— the Raiders and Giants (both 4-0), and the 49ers (3-0).

In blasting Cincinnati 31-16, Seattle got three touchdowns for the second consecutive week from Derrick Fenner. The second-year running back scored on 4- and 3-yard runs and caught a 2-yard touchdown pass from Dave Krieg.

In Los Angeles, both the Raiders and Bears began the day unbeaten. Playing before 80,156 fans, the Raiders outmuscled Chicago 24-10, sacking quarterbacks Jim Harbaugh and Mike Tomczak a total of 6 times. On one of rookie linebacker Aaron Wallace's 2 sacks, he forced a second-quarter fumble by Harbaugh, which end Greg Townsend carried a yard for a touchdown.

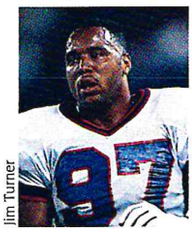
Phil Simms was on target at the Meadowlands, hitting 16 of 22 passes for 3 touchdowns as the unbeaten Giants breezed past Dallas 31-17.

Washington, the Giants' closest division rival, looked sharp, too, rebounding from a 10-7 halftime deficit to rout Phoenix 38-10. Second-year quarterback Stan Humphries, making his first NFL start in place of the injured Mark Rypien, hit 20 of 25 passes for 2 touchdowns—both of them 42-yard bombs to Gary Clark.

Miami had fun in Pittsburgh, too, driving for touchdowns on its first three series and stopping the Steelers 28-6. The Dolphins also had 5 sacks—3 by end Jeff Cross—and 3 interceptions, 2 by cornerback Tim McKyer. After a month, Pittsburgh, which was booed loudly by its own fans, still had not scored an offensive touchdown.

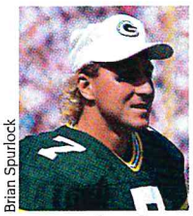
"If I were in the stands, I'd boo, too," Steelers quarterback Bubby Brister said.

Players of the Week



Jim Turner

Cornelius Bennett



Brian Spurlock

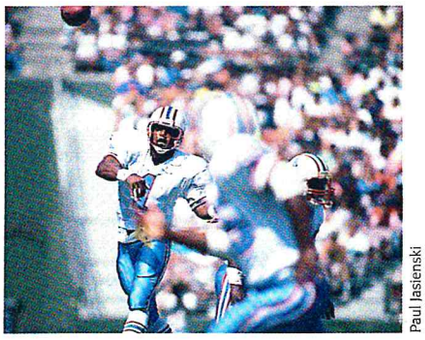
Don Majkowski

AFC OFFENSE—**Jack Trudeau**, *quarterback, Indianapolis*
Trudeau threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Bill Brooks on the game's last play as the Colts surprised the Eagles 24-23. In all, he passed for 329 yards and 2 touchdowns.

AFC DEFENSE—**Cornelius Bennett**, *linebacker, Buffalo*
Bennett made 8 tackles, broke up a pass, returned a blocked field goal 80 yards for a touchdown, and recovered a fumble to set up another touchdown as the Bills rallied to stun Denver 29-28.

NFC OFFENSE—**Don Majkowski**, *quarterback, Green Bay*
Majkowski passed for 3 touchdowns and ran for 88 yards to rally the Packers to a 24-21 victory over the Lions. His 26-yard scoring pass to Jeff Query with 55 seconds left won the game.

NFC DEFENSE—**Mark Robinson**, *safety, Tampa Bay*
Robinson had 14 tackles, including 1 for a loss, and also broke up 3 passes as the Buccaneers surprised the Vikings 23-20 in overtime.



Paul Jasienski

Warren Moon passed for 355 yards to lead the Oilers past the Chargers.

Block Party in Kansas City

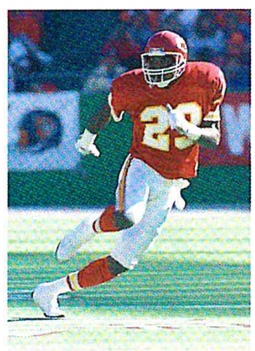
The most nervous people in the NFL after a month of the season were punters who still had to face Albert Lewis.

As the Kansas City Chiefs routed the Cleveland Browns 34-0 to raise their record to 3-1, Lewis blocked his third punt in three weeks and helped set up another block—both of them leading to touchdowns against a team that was expecting the big rush.

"I've never been so sick about something in my life," said Bud Carson, the Browns' head coach.

The 30-year-old Lewis, who's also a Pro Bowl cornerback, was making coaches and punters all over the league sick. His 3 blocks in successive weeks, which led to 2 touchdowns and a field goal, raised his career total to an incredible 9 blocks.

"You have to account for him every time," Chiefs special teams coach Kurt Schottenheimer said. "He prepares to do it. He looks at the protection and the guy snapping the ball and knows where the punter is going to strike the ball."



Herb Weitman

Chiefs' Albert Lewis

"You better more than account for him," said Carson, "because the guy has been accounted for on most of the punts he has blocked. He has a great knack for escaping blockers."

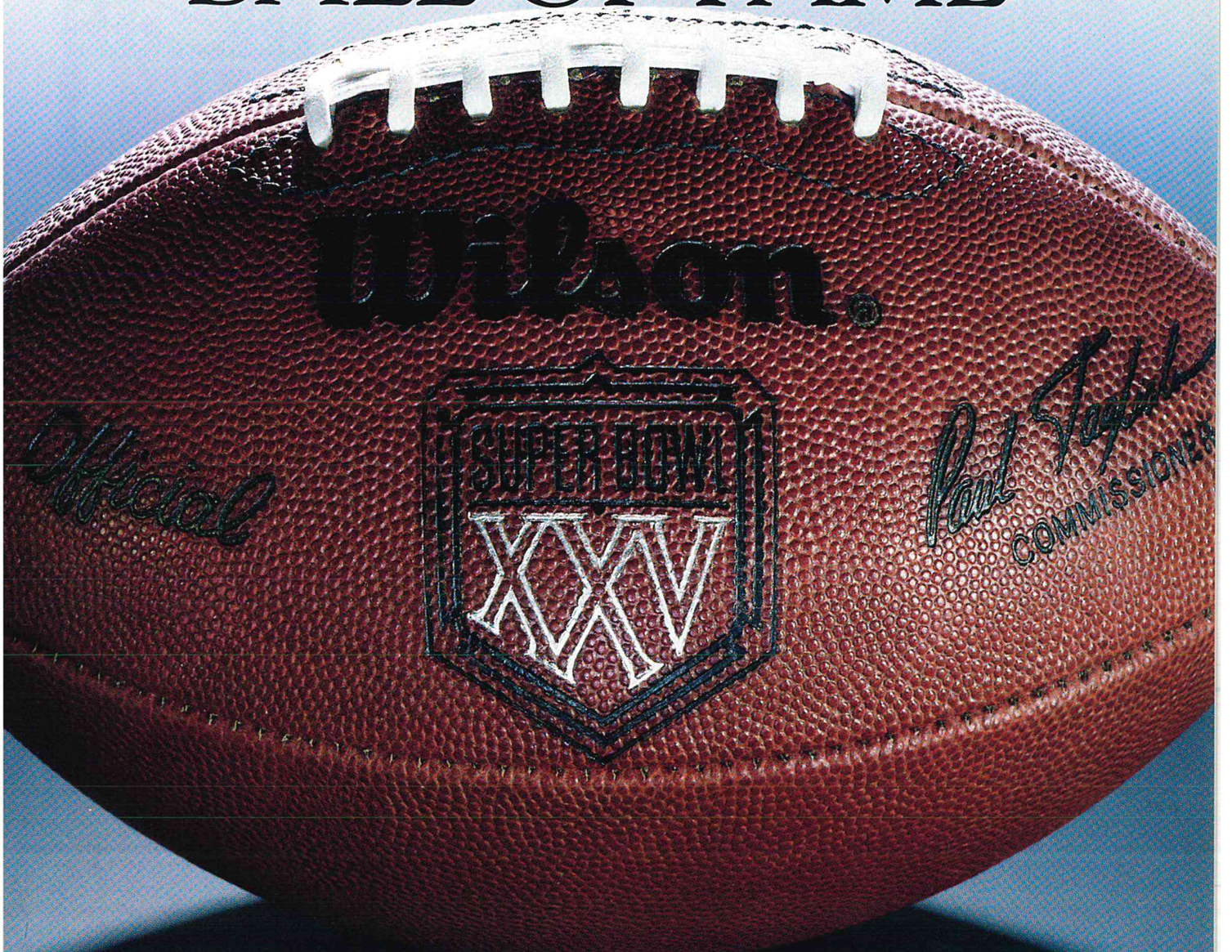
Cleveland concentrated so hard on double-teaming Lewis that reserve cornerback Charles Washington got free in the second quarter to block the first punt of his career, and linebacker Chris Martin returned it 31 yards for a touchdown. In the third quarter, Lewis blocked one of his own, and cornerback Kevin Ross carried it 4 yards for a score.

"We prepared all week for them," punter Bryan Wagner said. "I don't think that we prepared enough."

The studious Lewis, a political science graduate from Grambling, was hungry for more.

"There's no better feeling than blocking a punt, because it's something that is very difficult to do," Lewis said. "The timing has to be right. But you have to be a guy who's willing to pay a price, because it does hurt when you block a punt. But it's worth it."

BALL OF FAME



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Week 5 ★XXV★ October 7

If you were a football coach, you'd be happy to take a lead into the fourth quarter—right?

Think again.

Twelve teams took leads into the fourth quarter in week 5, but when the final guns had sounded, nine of them had lost. Satchel Paige once said, "Don't look back, something may be gaining on you," and he was right.

In Houston, for example, Warren Moon sneaked for a touchdown and threw for 2 more to guide the fired-up Oilers to a 21-14 fourth-quarter lead over unbeaten San Francisco.

But, after kicking a field goal, the 49ers won the game 24-21 when Joe Montana and John Taylor teamed on a 46-yard touchdown pass with 6:31 left. It was only a 10-yard pass, but Taylor shook cornerback Cris Dishman off his back and went in to score.

It was the 49ers' twelfth straight regular-season road victory, an NFL record. It also was their twelfth consecutive win overall, going back to last season.

"The thing we have to face is that teams are going to be ready to play us every week, and this is the way our games are going to go," said Montana. "We have to play like it's a Super Bowl every week."

Montana was superb again, passing for 318 yards and 3 touchdowns, including a 78-yard bomb to Taylor. Roger Craig caught a pair of short passes to give him 494 catches in his career, an NFL record for running backs, but he also suffered a partially torn knee ligament, which figured to sideline him two or three games.

David Drapkin

Mark Duper led the Dolphins to a victory over the Jets.

With the season still young, there were only two unbeaten teams left, both in the NFC and both 4-0—San Francisco and the New York Giants (who had a bye).

The Raiders also were 4-0, and just 10 minutes away from going 5-0, but Buffalo went on a 24-0 blitz in 6:03 of the fourth quarter to win 38-24. The week before, also at home, the Bills had scored three fourth-quarter touchdowns in 77 seconds to beat Denver.

"It's usually my halftime speech that does it," Buffalo head coach Marv Levy quipped.

Actually, it was his offense, defense, and special teams that did it. The Bills trailed Los Angeles 24-14 in this one when Jim Kelly began the onslaught with his third touchdown pass, a 42-yard collaboration with ex-Raider James Lofton. Moments later, Buffalo's Steve Tasker rushed in to block a punt by the Raiders' Jeff Gossett. The ball bounced to rookie cornerback James Williams, who returned it 38 yards for a touchdown.

Leading 28-24, the Bills still weren't through. On the next series, linebacker Cornelius Bennett sacked the Raiders' Jay Schroeder, forced a fumble, and then recovered it to set up a field goal. When the

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	4	1	0	N.Y. Giants	4	0	0
Miami	4	1	0	Washington	3	1	0
Indianapolis	2	3	0	Dallas	2	3	0
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	Philadelphia	1	3	0
New England	1	4	0	Phoenix	1	3	0
AFC Central				**NFC Central**			
Cincinnati	4	1	0	Chicago	4	1	0
Cleveland	2	3	0	Tampa Bay	3	2	0
Houston	2	3	0	Detroit	2	3	0
Pittsburgh	2	3	0	Green Bay	2	3	0
AFC West				Minnesota	1	4	0
L.A. Raiders	4	1	0	**NFC West**			
Kansas City	3	2	0	San Francisco	4	0	0
Denver	2	3	0	Atlanta	2	2	0
Seattle	2	3	0	L.A. Rams	1	3	0
San Diego	1	4	0	New Orleans	1	3	0

Scores

AFC

Buffalo 38, L.A. Raiders 24
Cleveland 30, Denver 29
Indianapolis 23, Kansas City 19
Miami 20, N.Y. Jets 16
Pittsburgh 36, San Diego 14
Seattle 33, New England 20

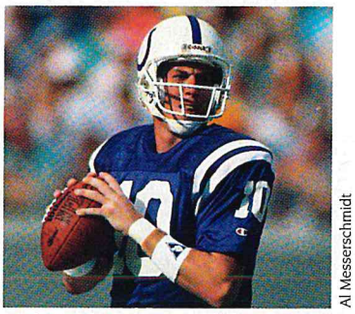
NFC

Atlanta 28, New Orleans 27
Chicago 27, Green Bay 13
Dallas 14, Tampa Bay 10
Detroit 34, Minnesota 27

Interconference

Cincinnati 34, L.A. Rams 31 (OT)
San Francisco 24, Houston 21

Colts Are All Right, Jack!



Al Messerschmidt

Jack Trudeau inspired the Colts.

Indianapolis came out of the blocks this season...well, stumbling.

Playing without star running back Eric Dickerson, who had been suspended by the team (and also placed on the non-football injury list until mid-October), the Colts began with three successive losses. Then, for good measure, they lost quarterback and number-one draft choice Jeff George for at least two games with a pulled abdominal muscle.

George's injury, however, gave backup—and former starter—Jack Trudeau a golden opportunity, and Trudeau took advantage of it, leading the team to successive surprises of the Eagles and Chiefs.

In week 4, Trudeau threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Bill Brooks on the last play of the game as the Colts rallied from a 20-10 deficit to stun the Eagles 24-23. The 28-year-old quarterback passed for 329 yards and was named AFC offensive player of the week.

In week 5, Trudeau and the Colts fell behind Kansas City 13-0 in the second quarter, but charged back in the fourth quarter again to win 23-19. Safety Mike Prior set up the go-ahead touchdown and clinching field goal with a fumble recovery and an interception.

Trudeau was sacked 7 times, but bounced up to pass for 205 yards and a touchdown. Chiefs head coach Marty Schottenheimer was not surprised.

"The Colts are a great team with Jack Trudeau at quarterback," he said. "He's a very, very good player. People don't give him enough credit."

Trudeau, however, had a lot of help from Dickerson's replacement, Albert Bentley, who had 158 yards rushing and receiving against the Eagles, and 114 more against the Chiefs. Bentley scored twice against the Chiefs, dragging a defender into the end zone on a 9-yard touchdown pass and running in from 10 yards out.

"I think this shows we're not going to quit," Trudeau said.

Week 5★

Raiders got the ball back, cornerback Nate Odomes wrestled it away from Los Angeles's Willie Gault after a catch and carried it 49 yards for the final touchdown.

The Bills needed all of their late-game heroics to stay tied with Miami in the AFC East. Like almost everyone else, the Dolphins came from behind to win in the fourth quarter of their 20-16 victory over the Jets.

After falling behind 13-0 at halftime, Miami still trailed 16-13 with time running out. But Dan Marino led an 80-yard drive, getting the winning touchdown with a 13-yard strike to Mark Duper with 1:03 left. Duper, who had caught only 2 touchdown passes since 1987, caught 2 in this game, including a 69-yard effort.

"Duper's back, for you people who were wondering," Miami head coach Don Shula said.

Also back was Pittsburgh's offense. The Steelers hadn't scored an offensive touchdown in their first four games. They scored 4 in this one to blast San Diego 36-14 in one of just three games that weren't won with a fourth-quarter rally.

The touchdown drought ended on Bubby Brister's second-quarter, 8-yard pass to rookie tight end Eric Green.

"It was a broken play, the wrong formation, the whole damn thing," Brister said. "It's never easy."

It may not have been easy, but Brister and Green hooked up again on a 1-yard touchdown pass 10 minutes later, and the Steelers were breezing.

It looked like a breeze for the Bengals, too, when they jumped in front of the Rams 21-0 in the second quarter on 2 touchdown passes from Boomer Esiason to James Brooks and a 1-yard scoring run by Eric Ball. But the Rams came storming back on a pair of touchdown passes by Jim Everett and 92 rushing yards and 2 scores from Cleveland Gary. When the smoke cleared, the two teams were tied 31-31 in overtime.

Bruce Dierdorff

William Perry carried the ball as the Bears won again.

After the Rams failed on two overtime possessions, Esiason completed 5 passes in a row on a 63-yard drive from his own 11 that set up Jim Breech for the 44-yard field goal that won the game.

It was a major victory for the Bengals, who had lost to Seattle the previous Monday night and were playing the second of five consecutive road games because the Reds, who share Riverfront Stadium, were in the major league baseball playoffs.

The Bengals played without injured wide receiver Eddie Brown, but Rodney Holman, Tim McGee, and Brooks caught 10, 8, and 7 passes, respectively, for 161, 142, and 109 yards.

The season was off to a disastrous start for Cleveland, and, trailing 29-20 in the fourth quarter at Denver, the Browns were looking at a 1-4 record. But Bernie Kosar fired a 24-yard touchdown pass to Brian Brennan with 3:21 left, and then led a last-minute drive setting up Jerry Kauric's 30-yard field goal that won the game on the last play 30-29.

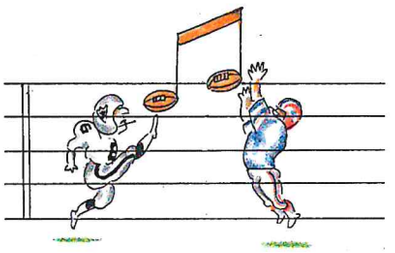
"Our season was on the line," said Kosar, who passed for 318 yards and 3 touchdowns. "This game meant a lot to a lot of people."

The Vikings kept losing, however, falling to Detroit 34-27. Trailing 20-10 at halftime, the Lions scored 24 points in a row in the third and fourth quarters.

Quarterback Bob Gagliano, playing in place of injured Rodney Peete, threw touchdown passes to three different receivers. One of them, Barry Sanders, faked out three different tacklers to score on a 22-yard pass, and also rushed for 82 yards and another touchdown.

In Chicago, the Bears chased Don Majkowski all over rainy Soldier Field, holding him to a 12-for-39 passing day in a 27-13 pounding of the Packers. Chicago quarterback Jim Harbaugh left the game with a cracked rib, but Mike Tomczak came in to run 6 yards for a touchdown and throw a pass to tight end Cap Boso for another.

Neal Anderson was nursing torn rib cartilage, but he still rushed for 141 yards and a touchdown. Kevin Butler kicked 50- and 51-yard field goals.



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Buffalo head coach **Marv Levy**, whose team had blocked kicks for touchdowns in each of the last two weeks, reflecting on the double-thump you can hear on the sideline: "That's the most beautiful sound since Glenn Miller."

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Boomer Esiason**, *quarterback, Cincinnati*
Esiason passed for 471 yards and 3 touchdowns and directed the winning field goal drive as the Bengals outscored the Rams 34-31 in overtime.

George Rose

Boomer Esiason

AFC DEFENSE—**Cornelius Bennett**, *linebacker, Buffalo*
The first player to be honored twice in a row, Bennett made 10 tackles, including 2 sacks and 2 tackles for losses, forced 2 fumbles, and recovered another to set up a field goal, helping a Bills' comeback that upended the Raiders 38-24.

NFC OFFENSE—**Chris Miller**, *quarterback, Atlanta*
Miller passed for 366 yards and 3 touchdowns, including a game-winning 3-yard scoring toss to Andre Rison with 1:33 left, as the Falcons rallied to beat the Saints 28-27. Rison caught 10 passes for 154 yards and 2 scores.

NFC DEFENSE—**Charles Haley**, *linebacker, San Francisco*
Haley made 11 tackles, including 2 sacks, forced a fumble, and broke up a pass in the 49ers' 24-21 victory over the Oilers.

Michael Zagaris

Charles Haley

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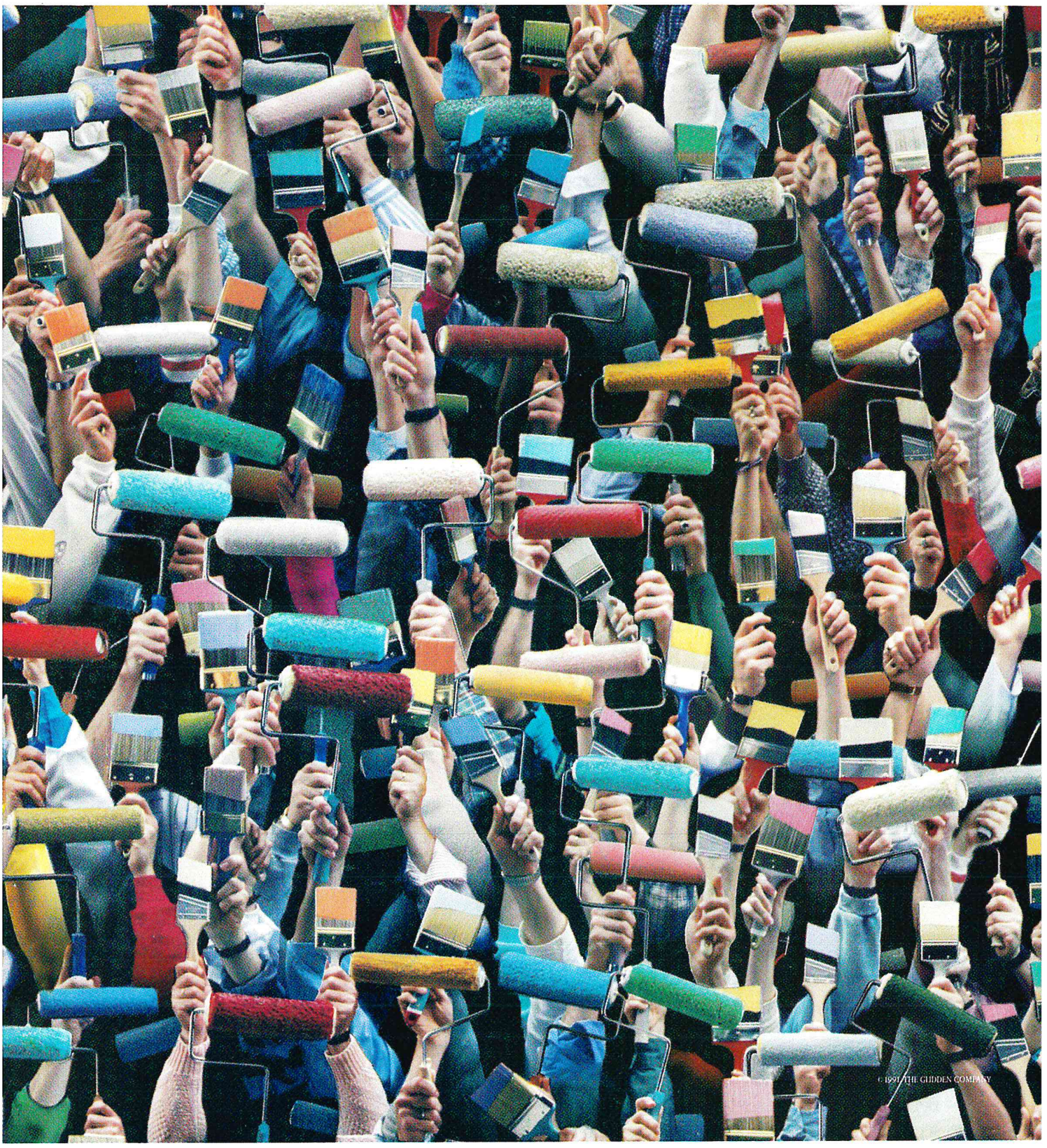

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Week ★XXV★ 6 October 14

Atlanta head coach Jerry Glanville had seen enough of Joe Montana.

"I don't know of a quarterback who can play any better," he said. "He gave us a lesson. I can't wait until that quarterback retires."

Montana was a long way from retirement as he passed for 476 yards and 6 touchdowns—including 5 to Jerry Rice—in the unbeaten 49ers' wild 45-35 victory over the Falcons. In all, Montana completed 32 of 49 attempts against the Falcons, who kept blitzing him and kept getting burned.

The Montana-to-Rice show was the most amazing display of the art of passing on a weekend when quarterbacks turned into mad bombers all over the NFL. Consider:

- Warren Moon threw a career-high 5 touchdown passes to five different receivers as he led Houston's Run-and-Shoot attack to a 48-17 rout of Cincinnati.
- Ex-Cowboy Steve Walsh came off the bench to make his first appearance for New Orleans, and threw 3 touchdown passes to lift the Saints over the Browns 25-20.
- Bubby Brister, whose offense didn't score a touchdown in its first four games, fired 4 touchdown passes in the sixth game as the Steelers ripped Denver 34-17.
- Phil Simms kept the Giants unbeaten by passing for 283 yards and 2 touchdowns in New York's 24-20 victory over Washington.
- Jim Harbaugh passed for 2 touchdowns and ran for another to help carry the Bears to a stunning 38-9 victory over the Rams.

But no one was hotter than Montana and Rice, who cut up a team that had lost to San Francisco only 19-13 in week 3.

Rice's 5 touchdown catches—for 24, 25, 19, 13, and 15 yards—equaled the NFL record co-held by Bob Shaw of the 1950 Chicago Cardinals (against Baltimore) and Kellen Winslow of the 1981 San Diego Chargers (against Oakland). In all, Rice had a 49ers-record 13 catches for 225 yards.

"It's just the nature of that type of defense," Montana said. "It's one-on-one coverage, and it's impossible to cover Jerry Rice one-on-one."

Rice finished the game with 6,938 career receiving yards, another club record, while Montana's 6 touchdown passes and 476

Al Koistra

Linebacker-sized Marion Butts ran for 121 yards and 2 touchdowns to lead the Chargers past the Jets.

QUOTE

Steelers quarterback **Bubby Brister**, noting it was hard to miss 6-5, 274-pound rookie tight end Eric Green: "He's as big as a house."

Marv Rubin

Playing the Shell Game in Los Angeles

When Art Shell took over as Raiders head coach in the fifth week of the 1989 season, it was a big story because he was the first black head coach in modern NFL history.

Rarely noted was that the Hall of Fame tackle and his team also faced a daunting challenge. Off to a 1-3 record in 1989, the once-proud Raiders had won only 13 of their previous 39 games.

Shell, however, preferred to look ahead. "We're going to put the players in a position to win," he said. "We've had great players here, great coaches. I plan on following in that tradition of being a great coach."

A little more than a year later, the 43-year-old Shell was on his way to doing just that.

He rallied the Raiders to an 8-8 finish in 1989, and, after six weeks in 1990, had them off to a 5-1 start and on top of the AFC Western Division. His overall record was 12-6 and his record at home was 10-0. The Raiders didn't look like the same team.

A great example was quarterback Jay Schroeder, who completed 44.1 and 46.9 percent of his passes in 1988-89. Now he was leading the AFC in passing and had completed 58.1 percent of his attempts. As the Raiders beat Seattle 24-17 in week 6, Schroeder hit 14 of 17 passes for 3 touchdowns in the first half.

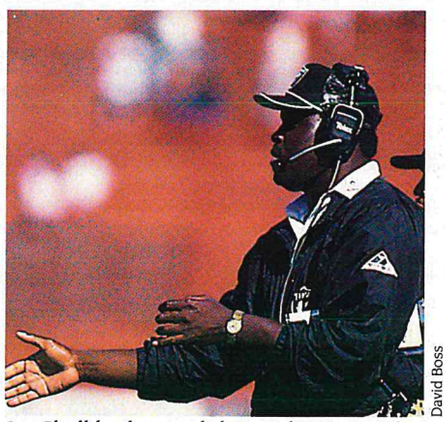
How much of a difference had Shell made in the team?

"I'd say it's one-hundred percent," defensive end Greg Townsend told Chris Dufresne of the *Los Angeles Times*. "Everyone's loose around here—no one's uptight about anything. It just makes the atmosphere much different."

Nose tackle Bob Golic noted the Raiders had talent before Shell took over, but that wasn't enough.

"It's how the talent is utilized," Golic said. "And how the team feels about itself is probably the most important thing. If you don't feel good about yourself or aren't using the talent well, then it doesn't matter."

The Raiders definitely felt good about themselves...and it showed.



David Boss

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Week 6★

yards were 49ers single-game records. Even Mike Cofer wrote his name in the club record book, kicking a 56-yard field goal on the last play of the first half.

In defeat, Atlanta wide receiver Andre Rison, the NFL's leading receiver, had a spectacular day himself, catching 9 passes for 172 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Spectacular was the word for Moon, too, as the Oilers got even with the Cincinnati team that had whipped them 61-7 in 1989.

The Oilers fell behind 10-7 in the second quarter, then scored 31 straight points—24 before halftime—for a 38-10 lead, and coasted to their big win. Moon threw 3 of his 5 touchdown passes in the 31-point run, and cornerback Richard Johnson returned an interception 30 yards for a touchdown.

"I think revenge was in the back of everybody's mind," Moon said. "But I don't think we went into the game thinking we wanted to rub it in like they did to us. We had a chance to rub it in and we didn't." Indeed, Moon left the game with 11:08 left and a 45-17 lead.

In Washington, the Giants increased their record to 5-0 for the first time since 1941, the year head coach Bill Parcells was born, by outlasting the Redskins 24-20.

Simms not only threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to Stephen Baker, he also set up a pair of touchdowns with a 61-yard, down-the-middle pass to tight end Mark Bavaro and a 63-yard, down-the-middle strike to running back Maurice Carthon.

New Orleans and Cleveland were tied 3-3 in the second quarter when Walsh replaced John Fourcade and led the Saints on an immediate 79-yard touchdown drive. Walsh finished it off with a 4-yard touchdown pass to Dalton Hilliard, then threw 2 more scoring passes to build a 25-6 lead before Cleveland rallied to make it close at the end . The second-year quarterback, who came in a trade from Dallas in late September, hit his first 8 passes.

The victory was the Saints' thirteenth consecutive against AFC teams, tying Miami's NFL record for interconference dominance.

In Denver, the Steelers rallied from a 17-7 deficit to hand the injury-riddled Broncos their third successive loss, 34-17, with Brister passing for 353 yards and 4 touchdowns.

Three of Brister's scoring passes went to rookie tight end Eric Green (for 3, 10, and 3 yards), while wide receiver Louis Lipps had 9 catches for 141 yards and the other touchdown. Green had 5 touchdowns in his first 7 NFL catches.

In Chicago, the Bears kept rolling along atop the NFC Central Division as they took a 28-0 halftime lead and smothered the Rams 38-9. While Chicago was off to a 5-1 start, 1989 Super Bowl contender Los Angeles was 1-4.

"I think we've hit rock bottom," Rams nose tackle Doug Reed said. "I don't think we can do any worse...unless there's some way we can give up fifty points in the first half."

The Bears sliced through the Rams' defense for touchdowns on their first four possessions. Harbaugh, who wore a flak jacket to protect a cracked rib, threw touchdown passes to Neal Anderson and Ron Morris and ran 12 yards for a touchdown, while Brad Muster ran 13 yards for another score.

Right on the Bears' heels was surprising Tampa Bay. The Buccaneers intercepted Don Majkowski five times to beat the Packers 26-14 and increase their record in division games to 4-0. Cornerback Wayne Haddix had 2 of the interceptions and returned 1 of them 29 yards for his second touchdown of the year. Vinny Testaverde passed for 292 yards and a touchdown, and rookie Steve Christie kicked 4 field goals.

In the week's most shocking score, the Chargers overwhelmed the Jets 39-3. Marion Butts, San Diego's 248-pound fullback, rumbled for 121 yards and 2 touchdowns, while 238-pound Rod Bernstine ran for another 80 yards, including a 40-yard scoring run.

The Chiefs rolled up 566 yards and pounded Detroit 43-24. Barry Word, who was working for a phone company until he signed in May, ran for a club-record 200 yards and scored twice, once on a 53-yard run.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	4	1	0
Miami	4	1	0
Indianapolis	2	3	0
N.Y. Jets	2	4	0
New England	1	4	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	4	2	0
Houston	3	3	0
Pittsburgh	3	3	0
Cleveland	2	4	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	5	1	0
Kansas City	4	2	0
Denver	2	4	0
San Diego	2	4	0
Seattle	2	4	0

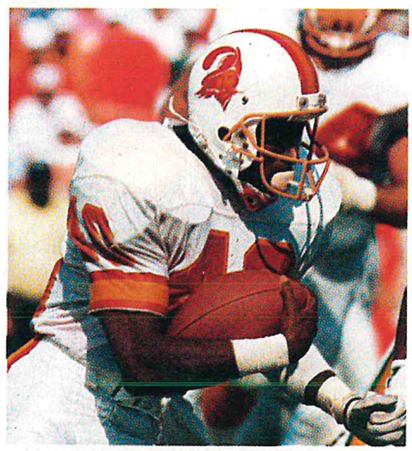
NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	5	0	0
Washington	3	2	0
Philadelphia	2	3	0
Phoenix	2	3	0
Dallas	2	4	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	5	1	0
Tampa Bay	4	2	0
Detroit	2	4	0
Green Bay	2	4	0
Minnesota	1	5	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	5	0	0
Atlanta	2	3	0
New Orleans	2	3	0
L.A. Rams	1	4	0

Scores

AFC
Houston 48, Cincinnati 17
L.A. Raiders 24, Seattle 17
Pittsburgh 34, Denver 17
San Diego 39, N.Y. Jets 3

NFC
Chicago 38, L.A. Rams 9
N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 20
Philadelphia 32, Minnesota 24
Phoenix 20, Dallas 3
San Francisco 45, Atlanta 35
Tampa Bay 26, Green Bay 14

Interconference
Kansas City 43, Detroit 24
New Orleans 25, Cleveland 20



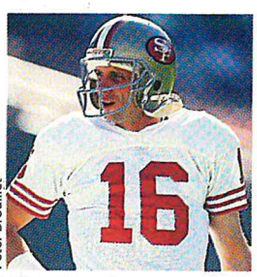
The Allens

Gary Anderson had 142 yards rushing and receiving to lead Tampa Bay.

Players of the Week

Paul Jasienski

Chiefs' Bill Maas



Peter Brouillet

49ers' Joe Montana

AFC OFFENSE—**Warren Moon**, *quarterback, Houston*
Moon passed for 369 yards and 5 touchdowns (to five different receivers) to lead Houston to a 48-17 rout of Cincinnati.

AFC DEFENSE—**Bill Maas**, *defensive end, Kansas City*
Maas sacked Bob Gagliano on successive series, forcing a fumble to set up a field goal and scoring a safety, as the Chiefs rallied to pound Detroit 43-24. He had 5 tackles in all.

NFC OFFENSE—**Joe Montana**, *quarterback*, and **Jerry Rice**, *wide receiver, San Francisco*
Montana passed for 476 yards and 6 touchdowns—both club records—and Rice caught an NFL-record-equaling 5 touchdown passes in the 49ers' 45-35 victory over the Falcons.

NFC DEFENSE—**Greg Jackson**, *safety, New York Giants*
Jackson made 7 tackles (6 of them solos), intercepted 2 passes to break up a pair of drives, and deflected another pass as the Giants edged the Redskins 24-20.

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Week ★XXV★ 7 October 18

Since their Super Bowl season of 1986, the Giants had struggled to recapture the old magic. They missed the playoffs in both 1987 and 1988, and although they captured the NFC East title in 1989, they were eliminated in their first postseason game.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Emmitt Smith ran for 48 yards as Dallas surprised Tampa Bay.

But after six games in 1990, it looked like the magic might be back.

"You can never tell how good a team is until it is under fire, under adversity," said Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor, after his team had snuck past Phoenix 20-19. "This was a test of our character, and we came out on top."

They came out on top—and remained one of two unbeaten 6-0 teams in the NFL—without quarterback Phil Simms, who was on the sideline with a sprained ankle. And they came out on top against a Phoenix team that led 19-10 with time running out.

Jeff Hostetler, who had produced just one score (a field goal) since he replaced Simms early in the second quarter, started the winning rally with a 76-yard drive that ended with his 38-yard touchdown pass to a diving Stephen Baker with 3:21 left.

That cut the difference to 19-17, and, after the defense held, Hostetler drove the Giants 49 yards in the last minute—with no time outs—to set up Matt Bahr's winning 40-yard field goal on the game's last play.

It was a demoralizing loss for the Cardinals, who got 4 field goals from Al Del Greco, 108 yards rushing from rookie Johnny Johnson, 3 sacks from linebacker Ken Harvey, and even a 1-yard touchdown catch by tackle Luis Sharpe.

"I felt we were the better team," a depressed Sharpe said.

Manny Rubio

Bo Jackson came back from baseball and scored twice for the Raiders.

In a frantic week, the Giants-Cardinals game was one of three decided in the last minute. The Bills overtook the Jets to win 30-27 on Jim Kelly's 14-yard touchdown pass to fullback Jamie Mueller with 19 seconds left. Improving Dallas beat Tampa Bay for the second time in three weeks, winning 17-13 on Troy Aikman's 28-yard touchdown pass to Michael Irvin with 23 seconds left.

The Bills' victory was their third in a row on a fourth-quarter rally.

"I'm twenty-six years old, and I feel like I'm forty-six," Buffalo defensive end Leon Seals said. "I don't think I can take it too much longer."

Kelly, who passed for 297 yards and 4 touchdowns, drove the Bills 71 yards for the winning score. He scrambled and scrambled and scrambled before throwing the winning pass to Mueller, who began the play as a blocker, but drifted over the middle and worked his way open. It was the first touchdown catch of Mueller's four-year career.

The Jets, who led 21-7 in the second quarter, had taken their last lead (27-24) with 2:46 left on Pat Leahy's 25-yard field goal. It was the third time this season New York had lost a fourth-quarter lead...and the game.

In Tampa, the Buccaneers and Cowboys met for the second time, even though they play in different divisions. And, for the second

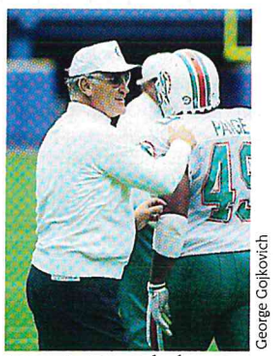
3-D in Miami: Don, Dolphins ...Defense

No one has taken more teams to the Super Bowl than Don Shula. The 60-year-old head coach of the Dolphins has led six of them to the NFL's biggest game, including five in his first 15 years at Miami.

But in the late 1980s, Shula and his Dolphins fell on hard times. Even though Dan Marino was throwing touchdown passes in bunches, the team won 30 games and lost 33 from 1986 through 1989. The biggest problem every year was easy to define—defense. There simply wasn't enough of it.

After six games in 1990, however, the Dolphins were 5-1—their best start since 1984, their last Super Bowl season. And the team's improvement on defense was remarkable.

In 1989, Miami's defense finished the year ranked twenty-fourth in the NFL. Now it was ranked second. The 1989 team allowed 23.7 points a game. So far in 1990, the Dolphins were allowing only 13.8, nearly 10 points a game less. They also were tied for second in the league with 22 sacks, and defensive end Jeff Cross was tied for first with 8.



George Gojkovich

Miami's Don Shula

"There's a confidence right now that we're going to do the job on defense, if not in three plays, then in six plays or nine plays," Pro Bowl linebacker John Offerdahl said.

Shula's rebuilt defense, coached by Tom Olivadotti, had five new starters, and they were a big reason for the improvement.

In the team's fifth victory—17-10 over New England—Miami's offense lost 4 fumbles and an interception in the first half. But the defense held the Patriots to just a field goal, while special teams player Mark Higgs scored a touchdown on a blocked punt and 19-yard return for a 10-3 halftime lead.

"The defense just kept the offense in it," Shula said.

In Miami, it had been a long time since anyone had said that.

Week 7★

time, Dallas was the surprising winner.

"All week long, they were saying we were just lucky to win [the first game], and that they were a much better team," Aikman said. "They weren't giving us any credit, and that was on our minds."

Winning also was on Aikman's mind as he drove the Cowboys 80 yards for the final touchdown, setting it up by running 20 yards to Tampa Bay's 28 on the play before the winning pass to Irvin.

Dallas played tenacious defense in the game, sacking quarterbacks Vinny Testaverde and Chris Chandler a total of 6 times and forcing 5 turnovers.

Three of the more storied ball carriers in the NFL—Eric Dickerson, Bo Jackson, and Ickey Woods—also made their first appearances of the season in week 7.

Dickerson, who had been suspended by the Colts and also placed on the non-football injury list, started fast against Denver, slashing for 11 yards on his first carry and 20 on his second. His first run boosted him past O.J. Simpson into sixth place on the NFL's career rushing list (he finished the game with 11,281 career yards), but he wound up with only 55 yards on 9 carries, as Denver kept the ball for more than 35 minutes and won 27-17.

John Elway had a big day for the Broncos, passing for 317 yards and 2 touchdowns, including a 52-yard bomb to Ricky Nattiel. Elway also threw a 66-yard strike to Mark Jackson that set up a fourth-quarter field goal. In addition, the Broncos got a lift from rookie running back Blake Ezor, who ran for 82 yards after Bobby Humphrey, the NFL's leading rusher, reinjured his sprained ankle.

The Raiders' Jackson, who reported, as usual, after playing baseball for the Kansas City Royals, shared the tailback job with Marcus Allen in a 24-9 victory over San Diego. Showing all his old speed and power, Jackson ran for 53 yards on 12 carries and scored on 5- and 7-yard runs. Allen ran for 45 yards on 8 carries, caught 3 passes for 50 yards, and set up a field goal and a touchdown with a 30-yard catch and a 27-yard run.

"I think we both played well," Allen said. "There's good chemistry."

In Cleveland, the Bengals' Ickey Woods, who hadn't played since the second game of the 1989 season when he suffered a serious knee injury, ran for only 7 yards on 5 carries, but he did score the game's final touchdown on a 1-yard run as Cincinnati stormed past the Browns 34-13.

The Bengals, who were playing their fourth successive road game, rushed for 233 yards in all. Rookie Harold Green ran for 75 yards, second-year back Craig Taylor added 73, and veteran James Brooks, nursing a strained neck, added 63 on just 6 carries, including a 28-yard touchdown run.

In San Francisco, the 49ers were led by first-round draft choice Dexter Carter, who replaced the injured Roger Craig and gained 147 yards from scrimmage in his team's 27-7 victory over Pittsburgh. Carter ran for 90 yards and caught 7 passes for 57.

"Dexter did a heck of job today," 49ers head coach George Seifert said. "It does a great deal for Dexter's confidence and for everyone else's on the team."

The 49ers didn't seem to need much more confidence. The victory, which ran their record to 6-0, was their fourteenth in a row over the last two seasons.

Seattle kicker Norm Johnson needed a confidence boost, however. He had missed 5 of 12 field goal attempts and an extra point, and the Seahawks were auditioning new kickers. But Johnson rebounded against Kansas City, hitting 4 field goals in a row as Seattle bounced the Chiefs 19-7.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	5	1	0
Miami	5	1	0
Indianapolis	2	4	0
N.Y. Jets	2	5	0
New England	1	5	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	5	2	0
Houston	4	3	0
Pittsburgh	3	4	0
Cleveland	2	5	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	6	1	0
Kansas City	4	3	0
Denver	3	4	0
Seattle	3	4	0
San Diego	2	5	0

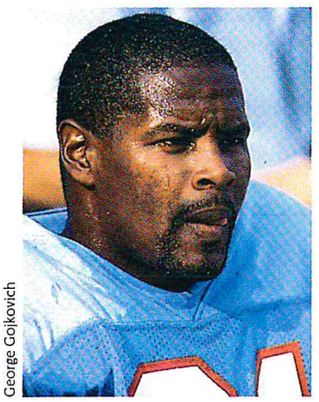
NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	6	0	0
Washington	4	2	0
Dallas	3	4	0
Philadelphia	2	4	0
Phoenix	2	4	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	5	1	0
Tampa Bay	4	3	0
Detroit	2	4	0
Green Bay	2	4	0
Minnesota	1	5	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	6	0	0
Atlanta	2	4	0
L.A. Rams	2	4	0
New Orleans	2	4	0

Scores

AFC
Buffalo 30, N.Y. Jets 27
Cincinnati 34, Cleveland 14
Denver 27, Indianapolis 17
L.A. Raiders 24, San Diego 9
Miami 17, New England 10
Seattle 19, Kansas City 7

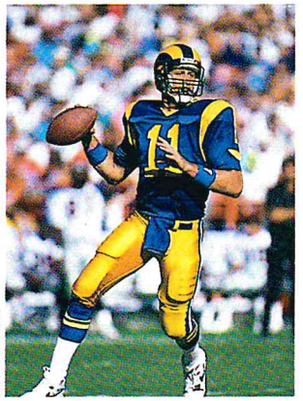
NFC
Dallas 17, Tampa Bay 13
L.A. Rams 44, Atlanta 24
N.Y. Giants 20, Phoenix 19
Washington 13, Philadelphia 7

Interconference
Houston 23, New Orleans 10
San Francisco 27, Pittsburgh 7



George Gojkovich

Oilers' Johnny Meads



Peter Brouillet

Rams' Jim Everett

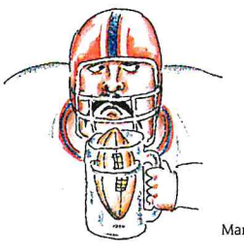
Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Andre Reed**, *wide receiver, Buffalo*
Reed caught 8 passes for 116 yards and 2 touchdowns and ran twice on reverses for 38 yards as the Bills rallied to defeat the Jets 30-27.

AFC DEFENSE—**Johnny Meads**, *linebacker, Houston*
Meads made 14 tackles, forced 3 fumbles, returned an interception 32 yards, broke up a pass, had 1½ sacks, and made 3 other tackles for losses in the Oilers' 23-10 victory over New Orleans. The loss snapped the Saints' 13-game winning streak against the AFC.

NFC OFFENSE—**Jim Everett**, *quarterback, Los Angeles Rams*
Everett passed for 302 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 35- and 37-yard strikes to Henry Ellard and Flipper Anderson, to lead the Rams past the Falcons 44-24.

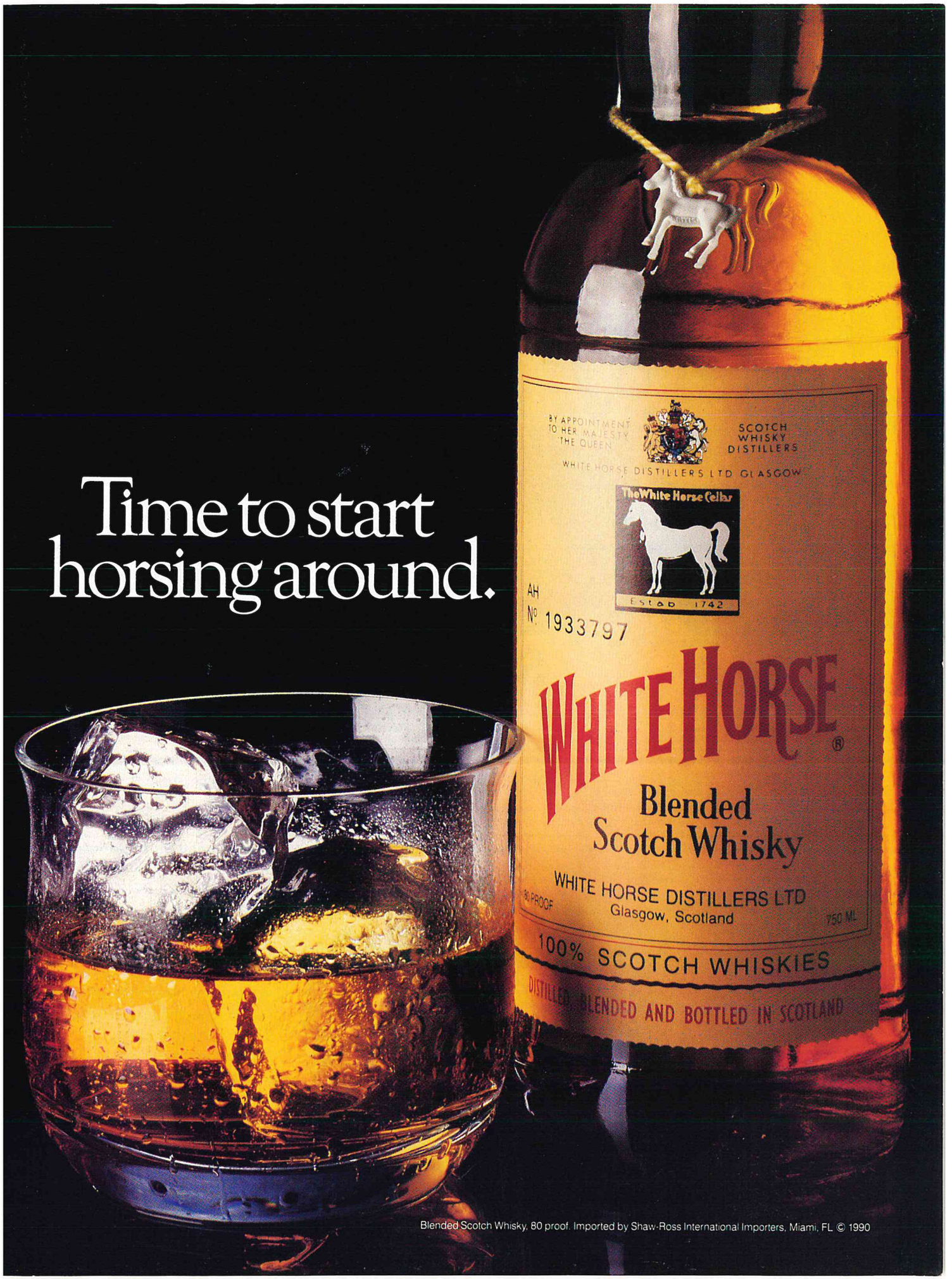
NFC DEFENSE—**Issiac Holt**, *cornerback, Dallas*
Holt made 2 tackles and intercepted 2 passes, returning the second 64 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, to help Dallas defeat Tampa Bay 17-13.



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Buffalo fullback **Jamie Mueller**, describing his secret to getting open when he caught the winning touchdown pass against the Jets after a long scramble by Jim Kelly:
"Actually, I was going for some water on the sidelines."



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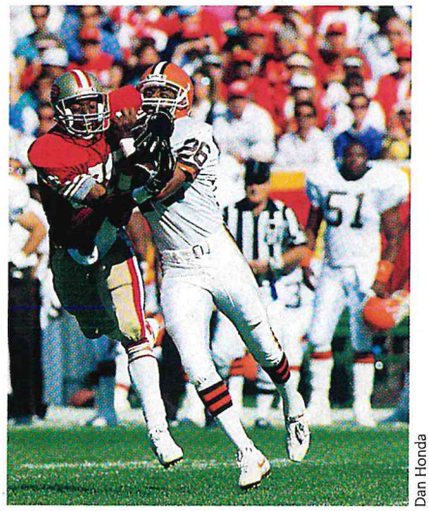
Week ★XXV★ 8 October 28

The nation had barely settled into its armchairs when Gaston Green of the Rams caught Pittsburgh's opening kickoff and returned it 100 yards for a touchdown.

Sixteen seconds were gone on Monday Night Football, and the Rams led 7-0.

Believe it or not, three hours later they had lost 41-10.

"That was a terrible football game," Rams head coach John Robinson said after the rout. "We are self-destructing in all phases, and I don't have an explanation."



Dan Honda

Wide receiver Mike Sherrard broke his leg setting up the 49ers' winning score.

Robinson was just one of many coaches in the NFL who were groping for an explanation. Only nine teams in the league had winning records, while 16 had losing records. Three, including resurgent Pittsburgh, were at .500.

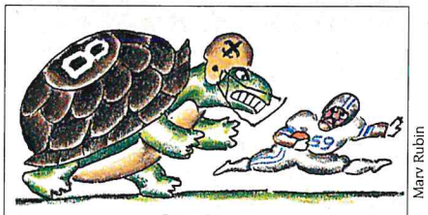
With a stunning 2-5 record, Robinson's Rams were one of five 1989 playoff teams under .500, including the Vikings (1-6), Browns (2-6), Eagles (3-4), and Broncos (3-4).

The Steelers, who also went to the playoffs last year, had started badly themselves, but now they were on a roll. The team that didn't score an offensive touchdown in the first month had won three of its last four games, raised its record to 4-4, and, as the destruction of the Rams showed, had finally learned the way to the end zone.

"We knew we were a good team and hadn't shown what we were capable of," quarterback Bubby Brister said. "Everybody was fed up with it, and realized it was time to do something."

Brister threw 4 touchdown passes against the Rams, including 6- and 2-yard flips to running back Merril Hoge, who also scored on a 1-yard run. The opportunistic Steelers scored 27 points after intercepting 2 passes, tackling punter Keith English on the Rams' 6-yard line, and getting 49- and 45-yard kickoff returns from Rod Woodson.

While several teams were struggling, the 49ers (7-0), Giants (7-0), Bears (6-1), Raiders (6-1), Bills (6-1), and Dolphins (6-1) were at the other end of the NFL spectrum, combining for a 38-4 record.



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Detroit linebacker **Jimmy Williams**, describing his 53-yard, all-out sprint for a touchdown with a New Orleans fumble: "I said to myself, 'If a lineman catches me, I'm going to be embarrassed.'"

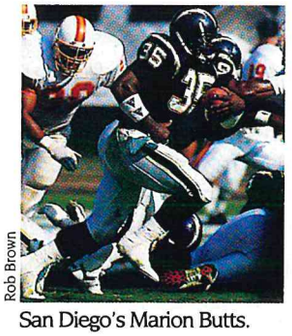
The 49ers won their fifteenth game in a row in what was beginning to seem like an eternal replay—a score at the end of a last-minute drive by Joe Montana. The winning points in the 20-17 victory over the Browns came on Mike Cofer's 45-yard field goal through the swirling wind at Candlestick Park with five seconds left.

"I felt if I hit it strong enough, it would get through the uprights before it had a chance to do anything else," Cofer said.

The Browns trailed 17-3 after three quarters, but rallied on 2 touchdown passes by backup quarterback Mike Pagel. A 4-yard effort to Ozzie Newsome tied the score with 1:10 left.

But Montana overcame a 10-yard penalty at the start of the next series and marched the 49ers 54 yards to set up Cofer. The big play in the drive was Montana's 35-yard throw to wide receiver Mike Sherrard. Un-

No Ifs, Ands, or Butts



Rob Brown

San Diego's Marion Butts.

After eight weeks, the leading rusher in the NFL was a seventh-round draft choice who spent most of his college career blocking, playing on special teams, and even filling in at linebacker.

But in his second NFL season, Marion Butts of the San Diego Chargers was now the man with the ball. And he had responded with 654 yards and 6 touchdowns and was on a pace that projected to a 1,300-yard year.

"I am kind of amazed at his running ability," said his college coach, Florida State's Bobby Bowden. "It looks like I underestimated him when he was here."

The Chargers underestimated him a bit, too, since they picked him on the seventh round of the 1989 draft. Admittedly, they liked his ferocity on special teams—he had captained special squads at Florida State in 1988—and his ability as a blocker. But the 6-1, 248-pound Butts quickly showed San Diego coaches he also could run. He led the team with 683 yards and 9 touchdowns as a rookie. In a late-season win over Kansas City, he rushed for a club rookie-record 176 yards.

"Marion Butts is a load," Tampa Bay head coach Ray Perkins said.

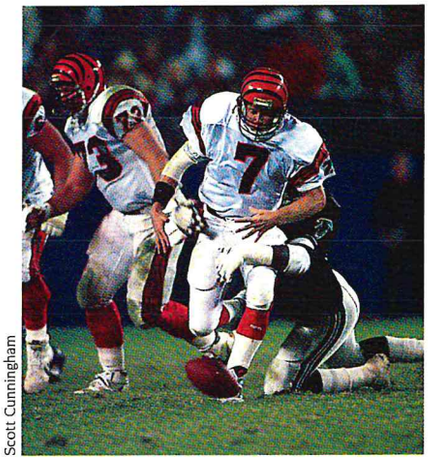
In week 8, Perkins watched in frustration as Butts and 238-pound teammate Rod Bernstine slashed through the Buccaneers for 73 and 75 yards, respectively, in San Diego's 41-10 victory. Butts scored three times (on 1-, 2-, and 5-yard runs) while Bernstine scored on a 20-yard run.

"It sure feels great [to score three touchdowns]," Butts said. "A lot of times you're happy just to get one."

In two seasons at Florida State, Butts scored only 4 touchdowns, but, of course, he only carried the ball 64 times. When he was in the backfield, he often blocked for Sammie Smith, now with the Miami Dolphins.

"They didn't exploit my running abilities," he said. "But things worked out for me. I'm in the pros now, where they want a big guy who can run."

Week 8★



Scott Cunningham

Atlanta forced 5 Bengals turnovers in a 38-17 victory over Cincinnati.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	6	1	0
Miami	6	1	0
N.Y. Jets	3	5	0
Indianapolis	2	5	0
New England	1	6	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	5	3	0
Houston	4	4	0
Pittsburgh	4	4	0
Cleveland	2	6	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	6	1	0
Kansas City	4	3	0
Denver	3	4	0
Seattle	3	4	0
San Diego	3	5	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	7	0	0
Washington	4	3	0
Philadelphia	3	4	0
Dallas	3	5	0
Phoenix	2	5	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	6	1	0
Tampa Bay	4	4	0
Detroit	3	4	0
Green Bay	3	4	0
Minnesota	1	6	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	7	0	0
Atlanta	3	4	0
L.A. Rams	2	5	0
New Orleans	2	5	0

Scores

AFC
Buffalo 27, New England 10
Miami 27, Indianapolis 7
N.Y. Jets 17, Houston 12

NFC
Chicago 31, Phoenix 21
Detroit 27, New Orleans 10
Green Bay 24, Minnesota 10
N.Y. Giants 21, Washington 10
Philadelphia 21, Dallas 20

Interconference
Atlanta 38, Cincinnati 17
Pittsburgh 41, L.A. Rams 10
San Diego 41, Tampa Bay 10
San Francisco 20, Cleveland 17

fortunately, Sherrard broke his right leg on the catch, the third time in his NFL career he had fractured the same leg.

Also unbeaten, the Giants took a three-game lead in the NFC East by beating the Redskins for the second time in three weeks, 21-10—their sixth successive win over Washington.

"We should win [the division] unless we do something stupid, and we don't plan on doing something stupid," Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor said.

The Giants took a 14-0 lead in the second quarter on 2 touchdown passes by Phil Simms, and got 92 yards rushing from Ottis Anderson, but it was the defense—and a little luck—that saved the game.

The Redskins had cut New York's lead to 14-10, and quarterback Stan Humphries made a fourth-quarter bid for the lead by throwing a 3-yard pass to running back Earnest Byner in the Giants' end zone. But the ball bounced off Byner's shoulder to safety Greg Jackson, who intercepted it with 6:51 left.

Then, with 4:34 remaining, cornerback Everson Walls stole another pass and returned it 28 yards for the clinching touchdown.

In Phoenix, the temperature on the field at kickoff was 104 degrees, and the Bears were hot, too, jumping to a 28-0 second-quarter lead over the Cardinals. Chicago went on to win 31-21, rushing for 223 yards, including 99 by Brad Muster on only 12 carries, and 74 by Neal Anderson, who scored twice. Jim Harbaugh and Ron Morris teamed on a 67-yard touchdown pass.

Cardinals wide receiver Roy Green, still going strong at 33, caught 5 passes for 89 yards and a touchdown, enabling him to pass Jackie Smith and become the leading receiver in club history with 8,002 yards.

In Indianapolis, the Dolphins rolled to their fourth successive win—a 27-7 victory over the Colts. Sadly, a hard hit by Dolphins linebacker Cliff Odom sent quarterback Jack Trudeau to the sideline for the rest of the season with torn knee ligaments.

"Jack is a friend of mine...I wanted to put a good hit on him, but I didn't want him to get hurt," Odom said later.

Odom and the rest of the Dolphins caused the Colts a lot of pain all day, however, restricting them to just 7 first downs and 132 total yards as they took over the NFL lead in total defense. Odom fell on a fumble by Trudeau in the end zone for a touchdown after Trudeau mishandled the center snap. Safety Jarvis Williams intercepted 2 passes. Indianapolis scored only on cornerback Chris Goode's 54-yard fumble return.

Buffalo, another upscale team, made it five consecutive victories by overpowering the Patriots 27-10. Thurman Thomas ran for 136 yards and a touchdown, and Jim Kelly completed 14 of 20 passes for another score.

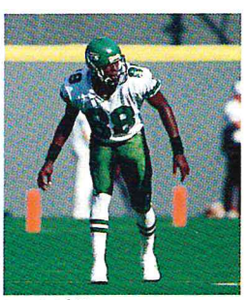
There was a shocker in Houston, where the Jets, who had lost three games in the fourth quarter, came from behind in the fourth to win one, surprising the Oilers 17-12.

New York trailed 12-7 early in the final period, but defensive end Darrell Davis, who had replaced injured starter Jeff Lageman, sacked Warren Moon, forced a fumble, and fell on it in the end zone for a touchdown. The Jets added a field goal and won 17-12.

The Eagles had defeated the Cowboys five straight times, but when Emmitt Smith scored from the 3 with 4:02 left, Dallas led 20-14.

That was more than enough time for Philadelphia's Randall Cunningham, however, as he led a game-winning, 85-yard drive for a 21-20 victory. Cunningham climaxed the drive with a 10-yard touchdown lob to rookie wide receiver Calvin Williams with 44 seconds to play.

Players of the Week



Chris Schwenk

Jets' Al Toon

Scott Cunningham

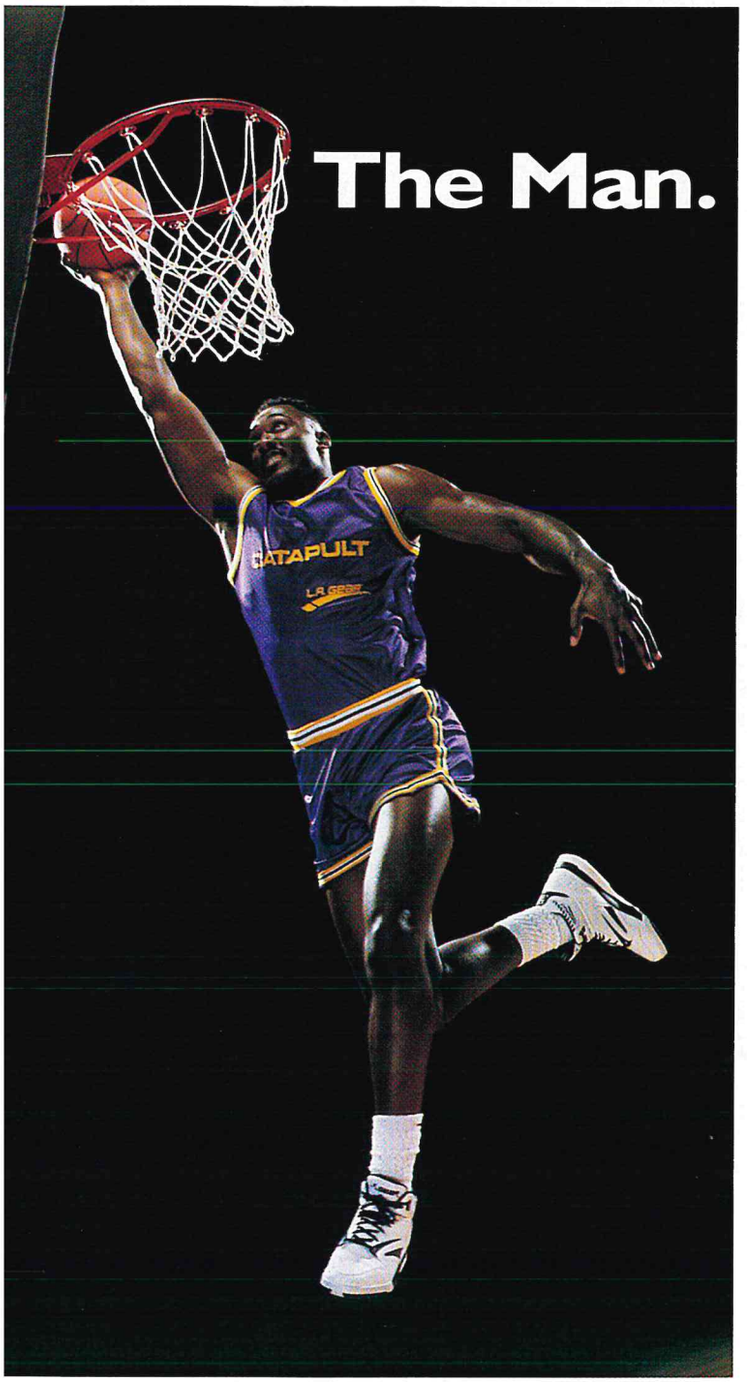
Giants' Everson Walls

AFC OFFENSE—**Al Toon**, *wide receiver, New York Jets*
Toon caught 7 passes for 119 yards, including a 42-yarder for a touchdown, and set up a field goal with a 28-yard catch in the Jets' 17-12 surprise of Houston.

AFC DEFENSE—**Gill Byrd**, *cornerback, San Diego*
Byrd intercepted 2 passes (the first setting up a touchdown) and made 2 tackles as the Chargers routed Tampa Bay 41-10. His second interception was the thirtieth of his career, a San Diego record.

NFC OFFENSE—*Chicago Bears' offensive line*
Despite an on-field temperature of 104 degrees at kickoff, guards Mark Bortz and Tom Thayer, tackles Jim Covert and Keith Van Horne, center Jerry Fontenot (replacing Jay Hilgenberg who was sick), and tight end James Thornton cleared the way for a Bears' rushing attack that gained 223 yards in a 31-21 victory over Phoenix.

NFC DEFENSE—**Everson Walls**, *cornerback, New York Giants*
Walls set up a touchdown with his first interception, returned his second interception 28 yards for the clinching touchdown, and made 3 tackles in the Giants' 21-10 conquest of their arch-rivals, the Redskins.



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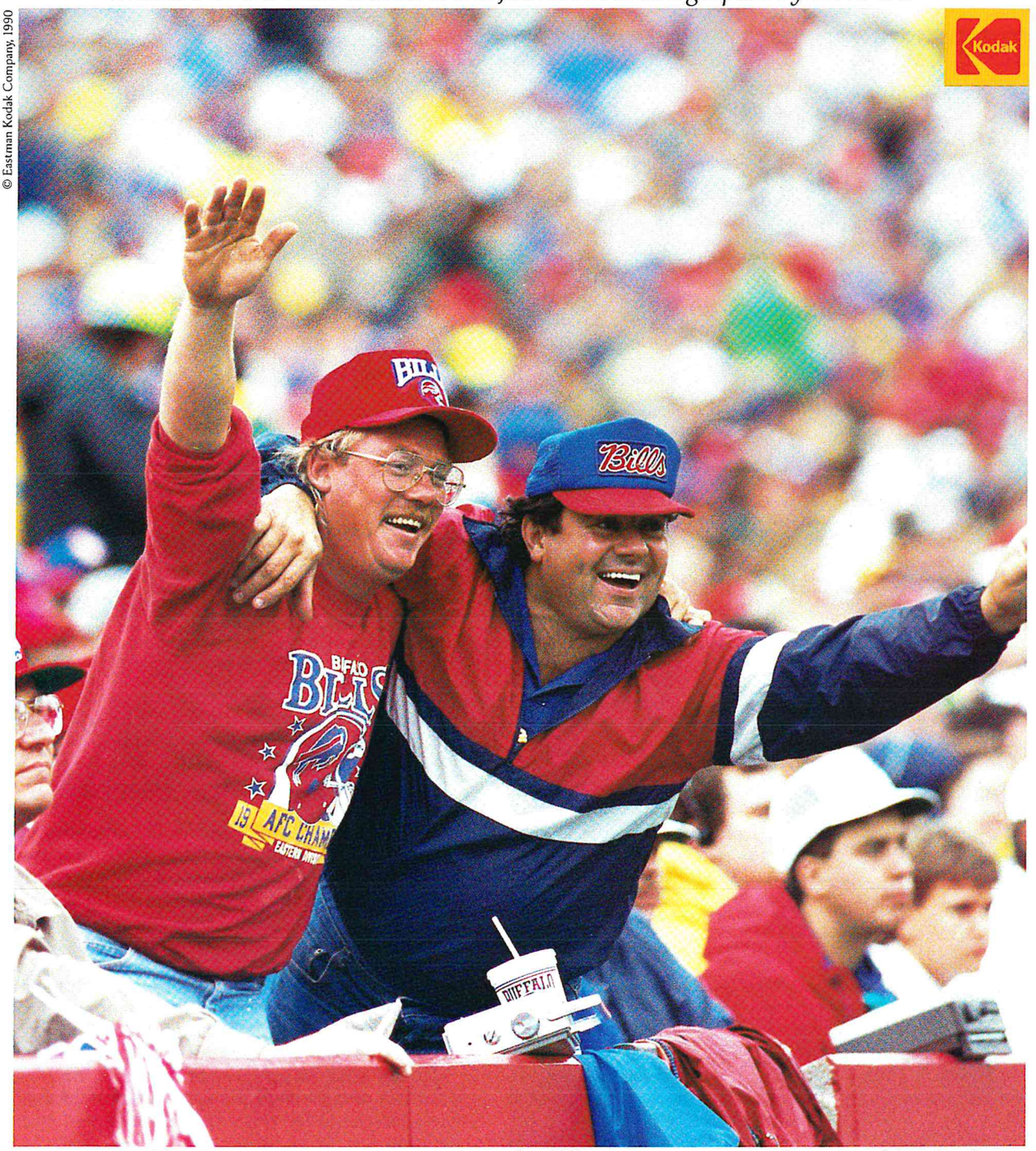

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Week 9 ★XXV★ November 4

When quarterback Stan Humphries threw his third interception against Detroit, Washington head coach Joe Gibbs had seen enough. He told backup Jeff Rutledge to go in for the next series.

While the two men watched, however, the Lions' Barry Sanders dashed 45 yards for a touchdown—and Detroit's third-quarter lead jumped to 35-14. Rutledge was undaunted.

"The first thing I did was pray," he said later. "I said, 'Good Lord, let me go in there and relax and come back—and take it a little bit at a time.'"

And so he did. He kept taking and taking and taking...and when the game had ended, he had taken the Redskins to a remarkable 41-38 overtime victory. Along the way, the 12-year veteran directed three long touchdown drives and two long field-goal drives, while completing 30 of 42 passes for 363 yards and a touchdown. Gibbs was elated.

"I'd have to say this is one of the biggest victories we've had since I've been here," the coach said. "I'm exhausted."

So were his wide receivers. Art Monk caught 13 passes for 168 yards, including a 40-yard effort in overtime that set up Chip Lohmiller's winning 34-yard field goal. Ricky Sanders caught 11 passes for 132 yards, and Gary Clark caught 8 for 132 and a touchdown.

Rutledge did some running, too. With 18 seconds left in regulation, he scored on a 12-yard quarterback draw to send the game into overtime. The Redskins gained a club-record 674 yards and totaled 39 first downs.

It was the most dramatic game on a weekend in which the three division leaders in the NFC kept or padded their big leads, while AFC teams squeezed together like a crowd on an elevator.

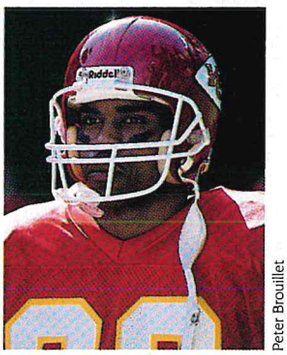
In Cleveland, the Bills remained in a first-place tie with Miami in the AFC East by winning their sixth successive game with a 42-0 rout of the Browns. Thurman Thomas ran for 2 touchdowns and caught an 11-yard scoring pass from Jim Kelly. Linebacker Darryl Talley intercepted 2 passes and returned one 60 yards for a touchdown. It was the Browns' worst home loss ever, and on Monday, owner Art Modell replaced head coach Bud Carson with offensive coordinator Jim Shofner.

"We had to stop the hemorrhaging," Modell said. "[The game] was an embarrassment for all of us."

While the Browns were embarrassed, the Dolphins stormed to their fifth win in a row, 23-3 over Phoenix. Dan Marino fired touchdown passes to fullback Tony Paige and wide receiver Mark Clayton, and Pete Stoyanovich kicked 3 field goals to make him a perfect 12-for-12.

On defense, Miami sacked Phoenix quarterback Timm Rosenbach 5 times and held NFC rushing leader Johnny Johnson to 27 yards on 11 carries.

"They're for real," Cardinals head coach Joe Bugel said.



Peter Brouillet

Chiefs' Albert Lewis

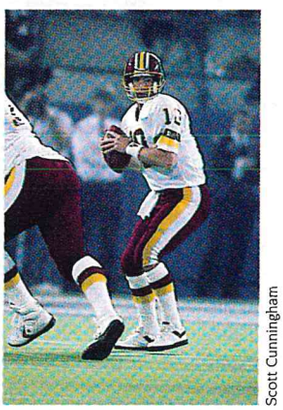
Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Bubby Brister**, *quarterback, Pittsburgh*
Brister passed for 2 touchdowns to rally the Steelers to a 21-9 victory over the Falcons, their fourth win in five games.

AFC DEFENSE—**Albert Lewis**, *cornerback, Kansas City*
Lewis recovered a fumble to set up a field goal, stopped a drive with an interception, made 2 tackles, and broke up 2 passes as the Chiefs edged the Raiders 9-7.

NFC OFFENSE—**Jeff Rutledge**, *quarterback, Washington*
Rutledge came off the bench in the third quarter to rally the Redskins from a 21-point deficit to a 41-38 victory over the Lions. He passed for 363 yards and a touchdown and ran 12 yards for the score that sent the game into overtime.

NFC DEFENSE—**Mark Carrier**, *safety, Chicago*
Carrier intercepted 2 passes to set up 10 points, made 11 tackles, forced a fumble, and tipped a pass that led to another interception as the Bears dominated Tampa Bay 26-6.



Scott Cunningham

Redskins' Jeff Rutledge

David Boss

Leonard Harris dropped a potential touchdown pass as the Oilers lost to the Rams.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	7	1	0
Miami	7	1	0
N.Y. Jets	4	5	0
Indianapolis	2	6	0
New England	1	7	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	5	4	0
Pittsburgh	5	4	0
Houston	4	5	0
Cleveland	2	7	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	6	2	0
Kansas City	5	3	0
San Diego	4	5	0
Denver	3	5	0
Seattle	3	5	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	8	0	0
Washington	5	3	0
Philadelphia	4	4	0
Dallas	3	6	0
Phoenix	2	6	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	7	1	0
Tampa Bay	4	5	0
Detroit	3	5	0
Green Bay	3	5	0
Minnesota	2	6	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	8	0	0
Atlanta	3	5	0
L.A. Rams	3	5	0
New Orleans	3	5	0

Scores

AFC
Buffalo 42, Cleveland 0
Kansas City 9, L.A. Raiders 7
San Diego 31, Seattle 14
NFC
Chicago 26, Tampa Bay 6
San Francisco 24, Green Bay 20
Washington 41, Detroit 38 (OT)
Interconference
L.A. Rams 17, Houston 13
Miami 23, Phoenix 3
Minnesota 27, Denver 22
New Orleans 21, Cincinnati 7
N.Y. Giants 24, Indianapolis 7
N.Y. Jets 24, Dallas 9
Philadelphia 48, New England 20
Pittsburgh 21, Atlanta 9

Week 9★

So were the Kansas City Chiefs, who outfought the Raiders 9-7 on a windy, rainy, sleet-filled day in Kansas City to pull within a game of Los Angeles in the AFC West. The Chiefs didn't score a touchdown, but Nick Lowery kicked 36-, 48-, and 41-yard field goals, including the game-winner with 11:58 left.

Kevin Porter set up the first field goal with a blocked punt and recovery, and cornerback Albert Lewis set up the second by grabbing a fumble by Bo Jackson out of the air.

Pittsburgh pulled into a tie with Cincinnati in the AFC Central by rallying for a 21-9 victory over Atlanta. The Falcons led 9-0 at halftime on 3 field goals by Greg Davis, but Pittsburgh's Bubby Brister threw second-half touchdown passes to Louis Lipps and Mike Mularkey, and Warren Williams, subbing for injured Tim Worley, scored on a 70-yard run.

The Steelers found themselves tied for first, because Cincinnati, overjoyed at being home after five consecutive road games, was ambushed 21-7 by New Orleans.

The Saints rushed for 249 yards and kept the ball for almost 40 minutes. Craig (Ironhead) Heyward and Rueben Mayes ran for 122 and 115 yards, respectively, and each scored a touchdown.

There was more bad news for Cincinnati. Pro Bowl safety David Fulcher separated a shoulder and would be out four to six weeks.

There was only good news for the Eagles as they exploded for 48 points and handed the Patriots their sixth successive loss, 48-20. Randall Cunningham beat the Patriots with his arm and his legs, running for 124 yards and throwing 4 touchdown passes. Cunningham's rushing total was the third highest ever by an NFL quarterback, and it included a 52-yard scramble for a touchdown.

The Eagles' quarterback also threw 37- and 3-yard touchdown passes to tight end Keith Jackson and hit rookie wide receivers Fred Barnett and Calvin Williams with 37- and 23-yard strikes. Backup running back Heath Sherman rushed for 113 yards.

The Eagles and everyone else in the NFC East remained far behind the New York Giants, however. The Giants scored on their first three possessions—twice on short touchdown runs by Ottis Anderson—to take a 17-0 halftime lead, and went on to stifle the Colts 24-7 in Indianapolis. The victory ran New York's record to 8-0.

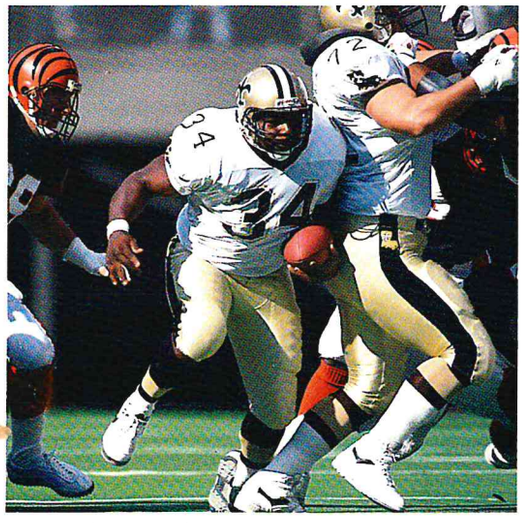
The Giants and the 49ers both were unbeaten—the first time since 1934 (when Chicago and Detroit reached 13-0 and 10-0) that two NFL teams had started 8-0.

In Minneapolis, the disappointing Vikings finally won again, snapping their five-game losing streak as Anthony Carter led a Minnesota rally for a 27-22 victory over Denver. Carter caught 5 of Rich Gannon's 6 pass completions for 146 yards, helped set up a touchdown and 2 field goals, and outjumped cornerback Alton Montgomery for a 56-yard, fourth-quarter touchdown that put Minnesota ahead for good.

One of the cardinal rules for punt returners is that you never catch a punt inside your own 10, but the Jets' Terance Mathis raced back and caught one over his shoulder at his own 2-yard line against Dallas.

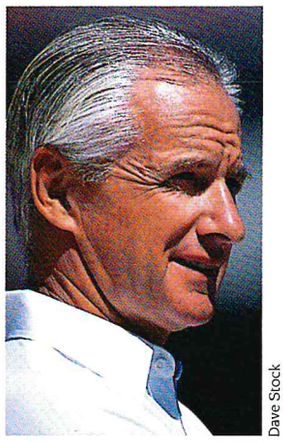
"I looked down and saw the end zone," Mathis recalled, "and I said, 'Whoa, I've got to do something with this.'"

What he did was turn around, run up the middle, cut to the right sideline, and race 98 yards for a touchdown, getting a final block from safety Erik McMillan at midfield. The return tied the NFL record for longest punt return (held by three other players) and helped the Jets to a 24-9 victory.



Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Ironhead Heyward's 122 yards led New Orleans.



Dave Stock

49ers' George Seifert

Still Perfect, by George!

When Bill Walsh resigned as 49ers head coach after winning Super Bowl XXIII in January, 1989—his third Super Bowl victory in eight years—most of the NFL breathed a sigh of relief.

George Seifert, the club's outstanding defensive coordinator, was named to succeed Walsh, but he was, after all, a rookie head coach. A lot of great assistants never make the successful transition to head coach.

A year and a half later, it could be said that no one in NFL history ever had handled the transition better than Seifert.

After guiding the 49ers to a 17-2 record and a victory in Super Bowl XXIV in his first season, Seifert had them off and winging at 8-0 in his second.

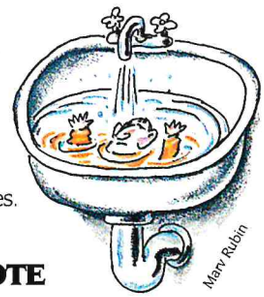
By rallying to defeat the Packers 24-20 in Green Bay, Seifert's team won its sixteenth consecutive game dating back to 1989, and had extended its NFL-record, regular-season road winning streak to 14 straight. Seifert's combined regular-season and playoff record was a fabulous 25-2.

Bobb McKittrick, in his twelfth season as 49ers offensive line coach, was impressed with his calm, but very-much-in-control boss.

"He respects everybody and gets respect in return," McKittrick said. "He's a coaches' coach and a players' coach."

Despite their unbeaten record, however, Seifert and the 49ers struggled at times during the first half of the season. They had to come from behind in five of their eight victories—and four of them were by four points or fewer.

"You have to understand, every team we play is well-primed to play us," Seifert said. "They start out with a great deal of intensity. Fortunately, we've been able to respond positively."



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Tampa Bay head coach **Ray Perkins**, after his team fell to Chicago for its fourth loss in five weeks:
"It seems like when it rains, it pours—but I sure wish somebody would turn the faucet off."

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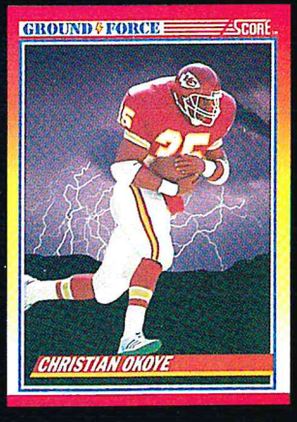

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Week 10 ★XXV★ November 11

Chiefs linebacker Derrick Thomas had chased Seattle's Dave Krieg all over Arrowhead Stadium, catching—and sacking—him 7 times. His performance set an NFL record for most sacks in a game.

But for Thomas, 7 was not a lucky number. He'll never forgive himself for not getting number 8.

On the last play of the game, Krieg escaped Thomas and threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Paul Skansi that—with Norm Johnson's conversion—gave the Seahawks a 17-16 victory over the Chiefs. It was Seattle's first win in Kansas City since 1980, and it kept the Chiefs from moving into a first-place tie with the Raiders in the AFC West.

"That last sack I didn't get is the one I'm going to remember," Thomas said.

"I'm glad they didn't call 'in the grasp,'" Krieg said. "He had his hands around my hips. Fortunately, I just shook away from him."

Thomas's 7 sacks, which gave him an NFL-leading 15 after nine games, broke the record of 6 set by Fred Dean of the 49ers in a 1983 game against New Orleans. On his third sack of the day, Thomas forced Krieg to fumble, and nose tackle Dan Saleaumua recovered in the end zone for Kansas City's only touchdown.

But the determined Krieg kept ignoring the punishment and threw for 306 yards, including another touchdown pass, a 54-yarder to Jeff Chadwick.

Krieg's last-second escape produced the closest finish on a weekend when the 49ers and Giants remained unbeaten at 9-0, and the Bears, Bills, and Dolphins —all 8-1— kept rolling, too.

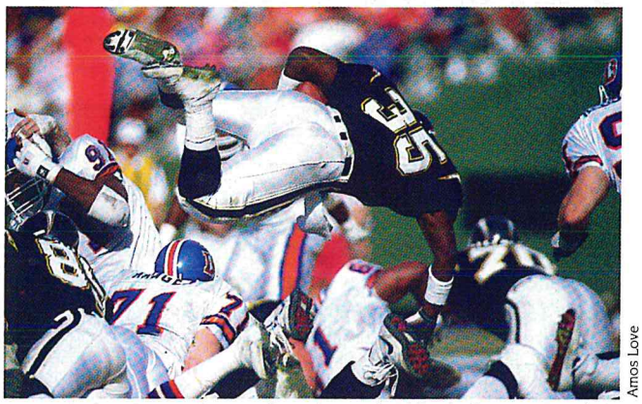
The Giants, looking calm, cool, and efficient, rumbled past the Rams 31-7 in Anaheim as Phil Simms hit 19 of 26 passes, 1 for a touchdown, and rookie Rodney Hampton ran 19 yards for another score. The victory gave the Giants a team-record 12 consecutive regular-season wins.

"This was the best we've played all year," Giants head coach Bill Parcells said.

Linebacker Gary Reasons had 2 of New York's 3 interceptions off Jim Everett, one of them setting up a touchdown, while punter Sean Landeta incredibly put 3 punts dead on the Rams' 3-yard line.

In Dallas, the 49ers' Joe Montana and Jerry Rice played catch again, Joe passing for 290 yards and Jerry catching 12 passes for 147 yards and a touchdown in a 24-6 victory.

"There's great chemistry between us," Montana said in one of the big understatements of the season.



Amos Love

San Diego's Marion Butts flew through Denver for 114 yards.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	8	1	0
Miami	8	1	0
N.Y. Jets	4	6	0
Indianapolis	3	6	0
New England	1	8	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	5	4	0
Pittsburgh	5	4	0
Houston	4	5	0
Cleveland	2	7	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	6	3	0
Kansas City	5	4	0
San Diego	5	5	0
Seattle	4	5	0
Denver	3	6	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	9	0	0
Philadelphia	5	4	0
Washington	5	4	0
Dallas	3	7	0
Phoenix	2	7	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	8	1	0
Green Bay	4	5	0
Tampa Bay	4	6	0
Detroit	3	6	0
Minnesota	3	6	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	9	0	0
New Orleans	4	5	0
Atlanta	3	6	0
L.A. Rams	3	6	0

Scores

AFC

Indianapolis 13, New England 10
Miami 17, N.Y. Jets 3
San Diego 19, Denver 7
Seattle 17, Kansas City 16

NFC

Chicago 30, Atlanta 24
Minnesota 17, Detroit 7
New Orleans 35, Tampa Bay 7
N.Y. Giants 31, L.A. Rams 7
Philadelphia 28, Washington 14
San Francisco 24, Dallas 6

Interconference

Buffalo 45, Phoenix 14
Green Bay 29, L.A. Raiders 16

Sherman's March Through Washington

For a year and a half, Heath Sherman was an obscure member of the Eagles' backfield who had started only one regular-season game and rushed for fewer than 350 yards. Occasionally, people called him Sherman Heath.

That all changed in a hurry when Sherman became the first Eagle in nine years to rush for more than 100 yards in successive games as Philadelphia pounded the Patriots 48-20 and the Redskins 28-14.

With starter Anthony Toney nursing a groin injury, the 6-foot, 190-pound Sherman ran for 113 yards against the Patriots. And, even though Toney returned for the Washington game, Sherman started again and carried a club-record-tying 35 times for 124 yards. He also caught 2 touchdown passes as the Eagles won their third game in a row.

Quarterback Randall Cunningham was ecstatic.

"It's good that we have a back like that," Cunningham said. "He's capable of gaining 200 yards someday."

The Eagles' defense also exploded against Washington, setting up 1 touchdown and scoring 2 more on cornerback William Frizzell's 30-yard interception return and defensive end Clyde Simmons's 18-yard fumble return after a bone-jarring sack by safety Wes Hopkins.

But the man who really had the Eagles talking was Sherman.

David Drapkin

Eagles' Heath Sherman

"He's a player," running backs coach Dave Atkins said. "I've been high on him since the day we drafted him. He was sitting on the board [still available] at the time, and I pushed for him.

"I knew this guy could come in here and do it. Now you're seeing him do it."

A sixth-round draft pick out of Texas A&I, where he rushed for 5,027 yards in his college career, Sherman was excited about his success, but not dazzled by it.

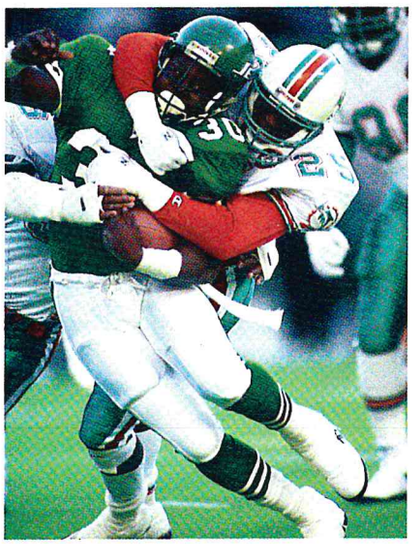
"You never know when your chance will come," he said. "You have to be ready. But I don't call myself an emerging star. I just call it going out there and playing as well as I can."

"Joe is something," Rice said. "Give us twenty or thirty seconds, and we believe we can put points on the board."

Also putting points on the board for a hot team was Jim Kelly of Buffalo, who shrugged off rain, sleet, snow, and winds that gusted up to 29 miles an hour to throw 4 touchdown passes and lead the Bills past the Cardinals 45-14. It was Buffalo's seventh win in a row.

Kelly hit 11 of 16 passes despite the wind in Rich Stadium that knocked over sections of the two teams' benches and despite losing his leading receiver, Andre Reed, with a sprained ankle when Phoenix led 7-0 in the first quarter.

Kelly's 4 scoring passes went to four different receivers, including a 1-yard toss to tight end Butch Rolle, whose last 8 catches—believe it or not—had gone for touchdowns (dating back to 1987).



David Drapkin

The Dolphins outwrestled the Jets.

The Bills also rushed for 211 yards, including 112 by Thurman Thomas. Meanwhile, special teams whiz Steve Tasker returned a fumbled punt snap 5 yards to set up 1 touchdown and caught a 24-yard pass for another, his first NFL score.

The Dolphins stayed tied with the Bills in the AFC East by winning their sixth game in a row, shutting down the Jets 17-3 with another strong defensive effort.

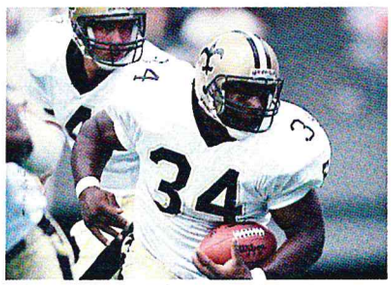
Miami's defense, which had not allowed a touchdown in three consecutive games, sacked Ken O'Brien 5 times, 2½ by linebacker David Griggs, and limited the Jets to 154 yards.

"Our defense made one big play after another," Miami head coach Don Shula said.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

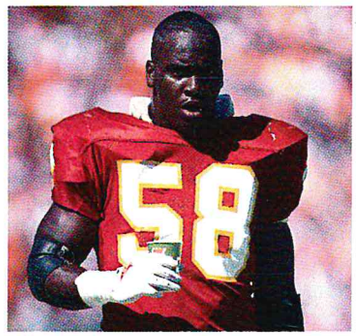
AFC OFFENSE—**Dave Krieg**, *quarterback, Seattle*
Krieg passed for 306 yards and 2 touchdowns, including a game-winning 25-yard pass to Paul Skansi on the last play, as Seattle defeated Kansas City 17-16.

AFC DEFENSE—**Derrick Thomas**, *linebacker, Kansas City*
In the same game, Thomas sacked Krieg an NFL-record 7 times, made 5 other tackles, had 3 quarterback pressures, and forced 2 fumbles, one of which was recovered for a Chiefs' touchdown. He also narrowly missed an eighth sack on Krieg's last-second pass.



Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Saints' Ironhead Heyward



Paul Jasienski

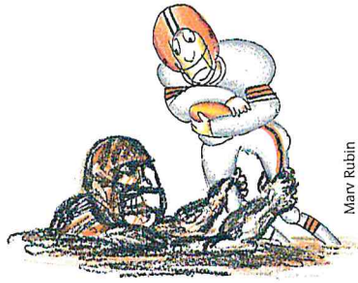
Chiefs' Derrick Thomas

NFC OFFENSE—**Craig (Ironhead) Heyward**, *running back, New Orleans*
Heyward rushed for a career-high 155 yards and scored on runs of 47 and 2 yards to lead the Saints to a 35-7 victory over Tampa Bay. It was his second successive 100-yard game.

NFC DEFENSE—**Richard Dent**, *defensive end, Chicago*
In winning honors for the second time this season, Dent made 10 tackles (including 2 sacks), forced a fumble, and broke up 2 passes as the Bears held off Atlanta 30-24.

While the Bills and Dolphins kept winning in the AFC East, a new team was emerging in the West. The improving Chargers rode 4 field goals by John Carney, 2 interceptions by cornerback Gill Byrd, and 114 rushing yards by Marion Butts to a 19-7 victory over Denver. It was San Diego's third victory in a row and fourth in five games, while the defending AFC-champion Broncos lost for the fifth time in six weeks.

Butts, the NFL's leading rusher, was nursing a deep thigh bruise and didn't start, but that didn't seem to bother him.



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Bengals nose tackle **Tim Krumrie**, looking forward to late-season football:
"Cold, rain, snow... that's my kind of football—getting the uniform dirty."

"Sitting out the first quarter made me hungry," he said.

The division-leading Raiders jumped to a 13-3 first-quarter lead on Green Bay and sacked Don Majkowski 8 times, but lost 29-16. Majkowski rallied to throw touchdown passes to Vince Workman and Perry Kemp, and Chris Jacke kicked a club-record 5 field goals. Helping out was Michael Haddix, who carried 20 times for 69 yards as the patient Packers controlled the ball for 39 minutes.

The Raiders' second loss in a row was the first at home for head coach Art Shell, who had won 10 straight at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

"We're going in the wrong direction," said Raiders running back Marcus Allen, who scored the 2 touchdowns that gave his team that 13-3 lead. "We just can't let it happen anymore."

Also going in the wrong direction was New England, which lost its seventh straight game, despite holding Indianapolis to 5 first downs and 155 total yards.

In fact, the Colts had gained just 99 yards before they put together their winning 56-yard drive. Rookie Jeff George's 26-yard touchdown pass to Bill Brooks won the game 13-10 with 2:05 left. George completed only 6 of 24 attempts.

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Week ★XXV★ 11 November 18

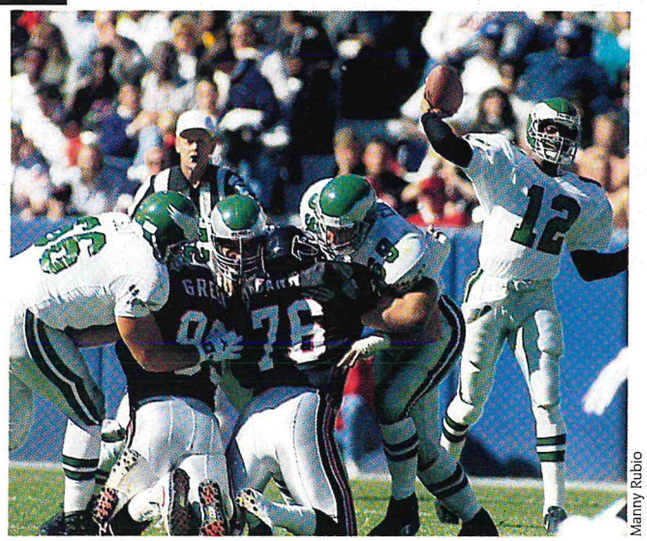
As overtime unfolded in Denver, a depressed Kevin Butler sat on the sidelines. The Chicago kicker had missed a potential game-winning field goal on the last play of regulation. The 41-yard miss left the Bears and Broncos tied 13-13.

"It's a terrible feeling to miss a kick like that," Butler said, "but fortunately, it hasn't happened to me much in my career."

It didn't happen in overtime, either. Given a second chance, Butler hit a 44-yard field goal that gave the streaking Bears a 16-13 victory.

It was a big week for exciting finishes. While the Bears won in overtime, four other games were decided in the last two minutes—three by field goals and one by a touchdown. The Eagles, Packers, Colts, and Vikings all pulled out victories as time was running out.

The Bears' victory in Denver boosted their record to 9-1 and stretched their winning streak to six. With the 49ers and Giants also winning to go 10-0, the three NFC division leaders had a 29-1 combined record.



Manny Rubio

Randall Cunningham passed for 3 touchdowns and rallied the surging Eagles twice for a 24-23 victory over Atlanta.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	1	0
Miami	8	2	0
Indianapolis	4	6	0
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0
New England	1	9	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	6	4	0
Houston	5	5	0
Pittsburgh	5	5	0
Cleveland	2	8	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	7	3	0
Kansas City	6	4	0
San Diego	5	6	0
Seattle	4	6	0
Denver	3	7	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	10	0	0
Philadelphia	6	4	0
Washington	6	4	0
Dallas	4	7	0
Phoenix	2	8	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	9	1	0
Green Bay	5	5	0
Minnesota	4	6	0
Tampa Bay	4	7	0
Detroit	3	7	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	10	0	0
New Orleans	4	6	0
Atlanta	3	7	0
L.A. Rams	3	7	0

Scores

AFC

Buffalo 14, New England 0
Cincinnati 27, Pittsburgh 3
Houston 35, Cleveland 23
Indianapolis 17, N.Y. Jets 14
Kansas City 27, San Diego 10
L.A. Raiders 13, Miami 10

NFC

Dallas 24, L.A. Rams 21
Green Bay 24, Phoenix 21
N.Y. Giants 20, Detroit 0
Philadelphia 24, Atlanta 23
San Francisco 31, Tampa Bay 7
Washington 31, New Orleans 17

Interconference

Chicago 16, Denver 13 (OT)
Minnesota 24, Seattle 21

The Bears beat the Broncos with their usual ball-control, error-free attack, a tight defense, and good special-teams play. On offense, Neal Anderson, shrugging off a pulled hamstring, ran for 111 yards. The defense sacked John Elway 6 times. Punter Maury Buford pinned the Broncos at their 8- and 4-yard lines with a pair of overtime punts, and Johnny Bailey set up the winning field goal with a 20-yard punt return.

Chicago had some bad news, however. Cornerback Lemuel Stinson, who was tied for the NFC lead with 6 interceptions, suffered a season-ending knee injury.

In Atlanta, the Eagles beat the Falcons 24-23 for their fourth in a row, but it wasn't easy. Philadelphia trailed the Falcons 16-7 early in the fourth quarter, but Randall Cunningham led two rallies that culminated in Roger Ruzek's 46-yard, game-winning field goal with 1:45 left.

"I hit it perfect," Ruzek said. "I could have hit that one from 60."

Cunningham rallied the Eagles with touchdown passes to tight end Keith Jackson and rookie wide receiver Calvin Williams for a 21-16 lead. After Chris Miller put Atlanta back in front 23-21 with a touchdown pass to Andre Rison, Cunningham moved the Eagles into position for the winning kick.

The Packers had to rally in the fourth quarter, too, after trailing Phoenix 21-10. To make matters worse for Green Bay, quarterback Don Majkowski was on the sideline with an injured shoulder.

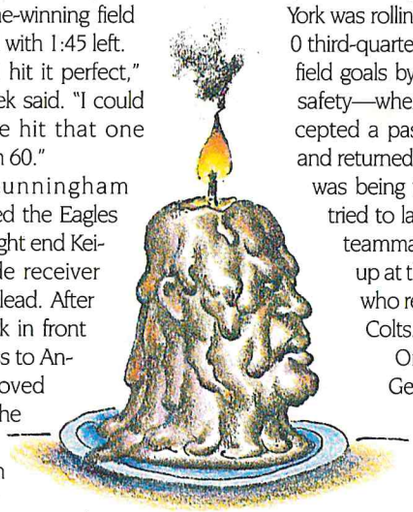
This didn't bother backup quarterback Anthony Dilweg, who threw a pair of touchdown passes in the last 7:30 to pull out a 24-21 victory. Dilweg's final touchdown pass was a 1-yard rollout pitch to tight end Ed West with 16 seconds left. If Majkowski is known as "Magic," what does that make Dilweg?

"Just call me 'The Wizard,'" Dilweg quipped. "This team has a lot of character. It's not only me. I just went out there and did my job."

Last-quarter heroics were nothing new for the Colts. When they edged the Jets 17-14 on Dean Biasucci's 38-yard field goal with 1:46 left, they had won their third game of the season in the last 2:05.

A reckless play by Jets safety Erik McMillan helped turn the game around. New York was rolling along with a 14-0 third-quarter lead—built on 4 field goals by Pat Leahy and a safety—when McMillan intercepted a pass by Jeff George and returned it 24 yards. As he was being tackled, McMillan tried to lateral the ball to a teammate, but it wound up at the feet of George, who reclaimed it for the Colts.

On the next play, George threw a 43-yard pass to Jessie Hester. The ball bounced off Hester and cornerback James Hasty, then back into Hester's arms for a touchdown.



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Giants running back **Ottis Anderson**, 33, apparently on his way to another 1,000-yard rushing year:
"The Cardinals thought I was burned out. But the flame still burns."

Week 11★

Players of the Week

Chris Schwenk

Warren Moon

AFC OFFENSE—**Warren Moon**, *quarterback, Houston*
Moon celebrated turning 34 by passing for 322 yards and 5 touchdowns (each to a different receiver) as the Oilers swept past Cleveland 35-23.

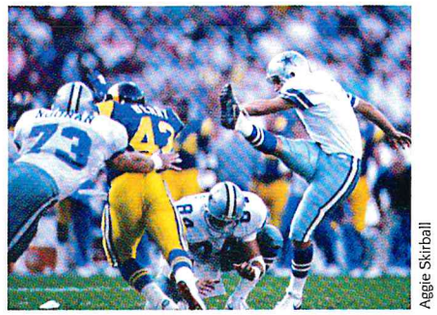
AFC DEFENSE—**Barney Bussey**, *safety, Cincinnati*
Bussey returned a fumble 70 yards for a touchdown, made 3 tackles, and broke up a pass to help the Bengals overpower the Steelers 27-3. With time running out in the second quarter, he tackled Pittsburgh holder Jim Stryzinski inches from the goal line on a fake field goal.

Jonathan Daniel

Mike Singletary

NFC OFFENSE—**Mark Rypien**, *quarterback, Washington*
After missing six games with a knee injury, Rypien returned to pass for 311 yards and 4 touchdowns, carrying the Redskins over the Saints 31-17.

NFC DEFENSE—**Mike Singletary**, *linebacker, Chicago*
Singletary made 20 tackles, 10 of them solo efforts, and recovered a fumble to set up a field goal as the Bears beat Denver 16-13 in overtime.



Aggie Skirball

Dallas drove 89 yards to Ken Willis's 23-yard field goal that beat the Rams.

Midway through the fourth quarter, George threw a short touchdown pass to Stanley Morgan to tie the score 14-14. Then Clarence Verdin set up the winning field goal with a 33-yard punt return.

"Once the momentum started going our way, everything worked," George said.

Everything worked for Mark Rypien, too, as he bailed out the injury-riddled Redskins. Washington had lost quarterbacks Jeff Rutledge and Stan Humphries with injuries the week before. But Rypien, who had missed six games with a knee injury himself, returned to pass for 311 yards and 4 touchdowns in a 31-17 victory over New Orleans.

"Ryp put the ball right where he had to," wide receiver Gary Clark said. "He really came back strong."

Clark had a big day, too, catching 8 passes for 131 yards and 2 touchdowns, while Earnest Byner ran for 116 yards. The Redskins' Art Monk caught 4 passes and scored another touchdown to become the third player in NFL history to surpass 700 receptions (he had 702).

In San Francisco, the 49ers kept their record spotless by trampling Tampa Bay 31-7. Joe Montana threw 2 touchdown passes to tight end Brent Jones and increased his season total to 3,065 yards, giving him an NFL-record seven 3,000-yard seasons.

Tampa Bay's only touchdown came on cornerback Wayne Haddix's 65-yard interception return, his third interception for a score this season.

In winning, the 49ers had 18 victories in a row (counting playoffs) to tie the NFL record set and equaled by the Bears (1933-34 and 1941-42) and later equaled by the Dolphins (1972-73).

The Giants kept their winning streak alive, too, beating the Lions 20-0 to stretch their regular-season winning streak to 13 in a row.

Steady Phil Simms threw 33- and 57-yard touchdown passes to Stephen Baker and Mark Ingram, and Ottis Anderson ran for 91 yards. The Giants' defense, which had held six opponents to 10 or fewer points, never let Detroit past the New York 29.

The matchup of the week took place in Miami on Monday night, where the AFC East-leading Dolphins hosted the AFC West-leading Raiders. The Raiders, who had lost two games in a row, righted themselves and snapped Miami's six-game winning streak with a 13-10 victory.

On offense, Los Angeles ran right at the NFL's leading defense for 177 yards, 99 by Bo Jackson and 79 and a touchdown by Marcus Allen. Meanwhile, the Raiders' defense held the Dolphins to 14 net yards rushing. Miami's Dan Marino passed for 214 yards and a touchdown, but he lost another scoring pass when the Dolphins were penalized for delay of game.

Finally, Herschel Runner

In 1988, Herschel Walker led the NFC in rushing with 1,514 yards. The same year he became only the tenth player in NFL history to surpass 2,000 yards from scrimmage—running and catching for a total of 2,019.

At the time, Walker was a Dallas Cowboy. When he was traded to Minnesota in 1989, the Vikings hoped he would lead them to the Super Bowl.

Through most of 1990, it appeared doubtful Walker could lead them to a .500 record. While the highly rated Vikings started 1-6 before winning two in a row, Walker's slump went on through nine games. At that point, the former 2,000-yard man had a total of 525 yards rushing and receiving.

Rick Kolodziej

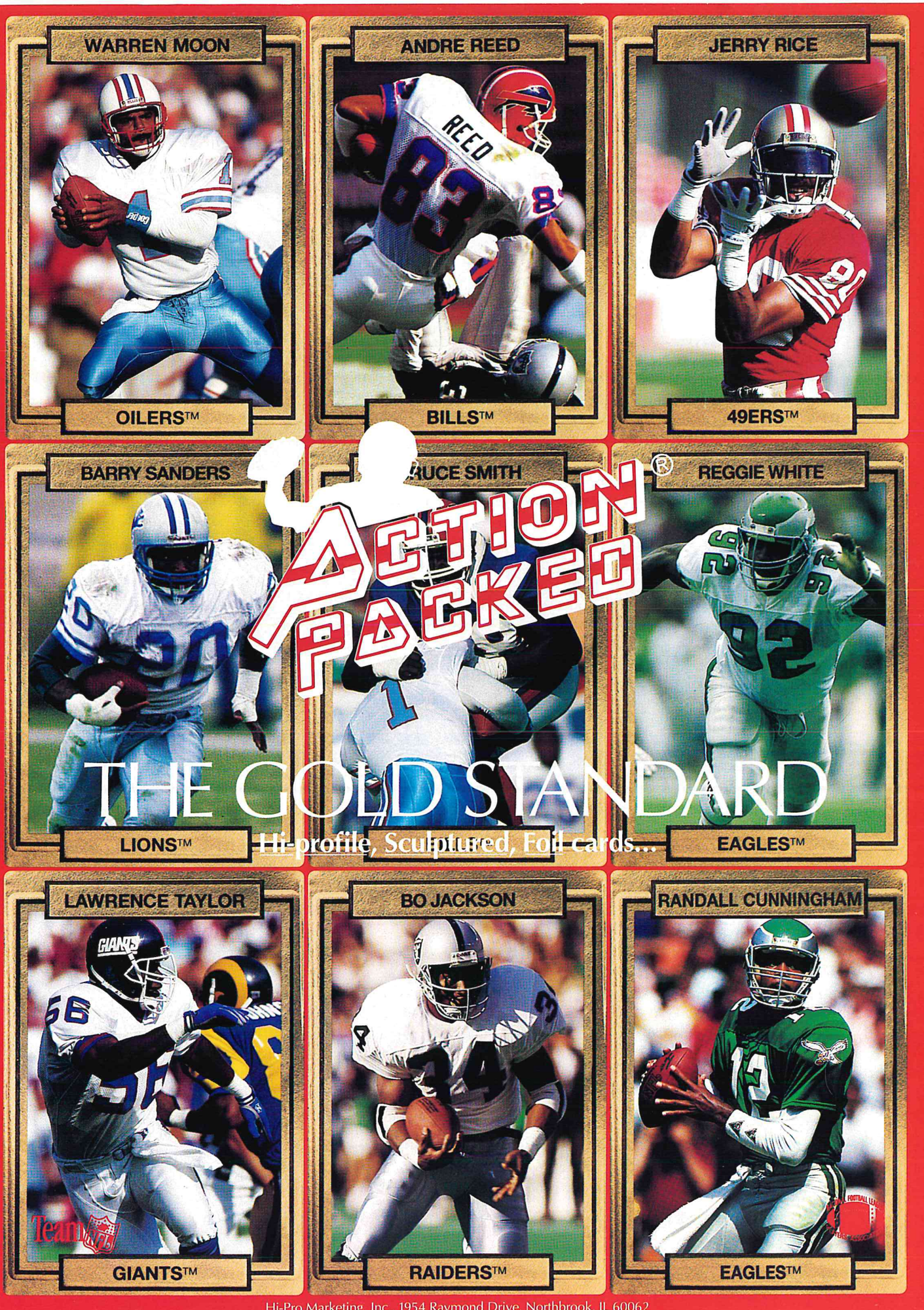
Herschel was on stage again.

Finally, in the tenth game, as Minnesota edged Seattle 24-21 on a 24-yard, last-play field goal by Fuad Reveiz, Walker flashed his old form. His team trailed 21-14 when the 28-year-old running back got the ball on a third-and-2 play with less than three minutes left. He shot through left guard, hurdled one potential tackler, and outran two others to streak 58 yards for the tying touchdown.

"Herschel looked like Superman on that play, didn't he?" Vikings quarterback Rich Gannon said. "That was the play of the game."

Minnesota safety Joey Browner made another big play on the next series, diving to intercept a pass on the Seattle 36. It set up the winning field goal and left Walker—who had a season-high 99 yards rushing—with a big smile.

"I never doubted," Walker said. "I knew I could get the job done. After I got to the secondary [on the long touchdown run], I knew I was going to score."



Hi-Pro Marketing, Inc., 1954 Raymond Drive, Northbrook, IL 60062

Week ★XXV★ 12 November 22

Pro Bowl safety Ronnie Lott didn't mince words.

"I hate the Rams," he said. "It kills me to lose to the Rams. This will stay with me for a long time."

Lott was in a sour mood because the 49ers—the team that had built an NFL-record-equaling 18-game winning streak—finally had lost. To the Rams. The 3-7 Rams.

The 49ers fell 28-17, and they weren't alone on one of the most surprising NFL weekends in years. Top teams and winning streaks toppled all over the league.

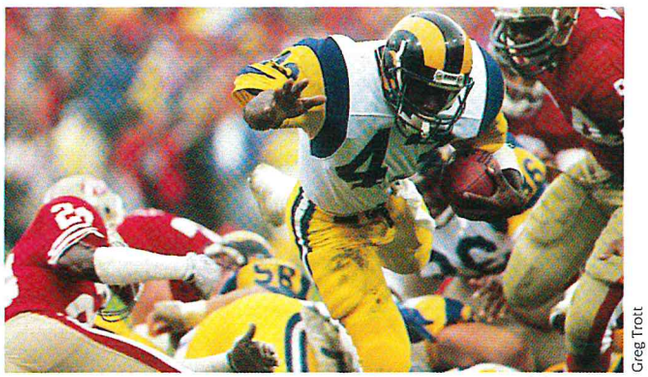
Every division leader lost, including the 10-0 New York Giants, the 9-1 Chicago Bears, the 9-1 Buffalo Bills, the 7-3 Los Angeles Raiders, and the 6-4 Cincinnati Bengals. It was the first time every division leader had lost since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970, when the league first expanded to six divisions.

Many of the losses weren't even close. The Vikings stunned the Bears 41-13, the Eagles ripped the Giants 31-13, and the Colts beat the Bengals 34-20. Some of the games had been considered even matchups, but the losses by the 49ers and Bengals were major upsets.

In rainy, windy Candlestick Park, the Rams recovered 3 fumbles and intercepted Joe Montana 3 times. Safety Vince Newsome's interception set the stage for the clinching touchdown.

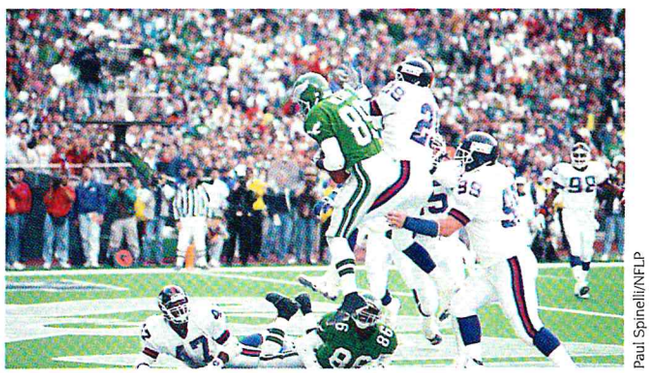
Los Angeles was clinging to a 21-17 fourth-quarter lead when Newsome picked off a floating Montana pass on his own 10-yard line. The Rams immediately committed a penalty and were set back to their 5. But, from there, they drove 95 yards in 17 plays—taking 10:37 off the clock—to Cleveland Gary's 1-yard touchdown run with 2:31 left. Gary dropped the ball after taking the pitchout, but it bounced back to him, and he went in to score.

Gary was busy all day. He also scored on a 10-yard run and a 22-yard pass from fullback Buford McGee, who had taken a handoff from quarterback Jim Everett. Wide receiver Flipper Anderson caught 8 passes for 149 yards.



Greg Trott

Cleveland Gary scored 3 touchdowns as the Rams snapped the 49ers' NFL-record-equaling 18-game winning streak.



Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Calvin Williams (89) made a leaping touchdown catch to help the Eagles end the Giants' 13-game regular-season winning streak.

In Philadelphia, the Eagles boasted the NFL's longest winning streak—five games—after they beat the Giants 31-13. The loss snapped New York's 13-game regular-season winning streak. Despite their defeat, the Giants clinched at least a wild-card berth in the playoffs.

QUOTE

Bears head coach **Mike Ditka**, reflecting on his team's stunning 41-13 loss to Minnesota:

"Once the truck hit me, I didn't bother getting up.

"We're not devastated," Giants quarterback Phil Simms said. "We're 10-1. That's a helluva accomplishment in this league. We'll play hard next week, and we'll play well."

The Eagles' Randall Cunningham played well—and then some—on this day, throwing touchdown passes to rookie wide receivers Fred Barnett and Calvin Williams, and running for 66 yards and another score.

The Eagles had some good bounces, too. Early in the fourth quarter, Cunningham threw a 6-yard pass to Barnett in the end zone, but he was covered by Giants safety Greg Jackson. The ball caromed off one or both of them to Williams, who outjumped two Giants to make the catch. That turned a 17-13 lead into 24-13.

Just 22 seconds later, it became 31-13 when Eagles linebacker Seth Joyner batted a pass by Simms into the air, and linebacker Byron Evans caught the ball and returned it 23 yards for the final touchdown.

In Minneapolis, the Vikings, who had begun the season 1-6, continued their all-out drive for a wild-card playoff berth with their fourth consecutive win, a 41-13 thrashing of the Bears that snapped Chicago's six-game winning streak.

"I've said all along we're getting better," Vikings head coach Jerry Burns said. "I just hope it's not too late."

Halftime was too late for the Bears after Minnesota scored on all six first-half possessions for a 34-3 lead.

Rich Gannon threw 3 touchdown passes, including a 17-yard effort to Herschel Walker, who also scored on a 2-yard run.

The Vikings' defense sacked Chicago's Jim Harbaugh 7 times and set up or scored 17

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04. Phoenix Cardinals	13. San Francisco 49ers	23. Kansas City Chiefs
05. Washington Redskins	14. Buffalo Bills	24. Los Angeles Rams
06. Chicago Bears	15. Indianapolis Colts	25. San Diego Chargers
07. Detroit Lions	16. Miami Dolphins	26. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
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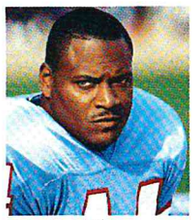
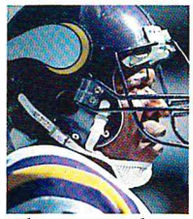
Week 12★

Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**Lorenzo White**, *running back, Houston*
White rushed for 125 yards and a touchdown and caught 5 passes for 89 yards to lead the Oilers past the Bills 27-24.

AFC DEFENSE—**Nesby Glasgow**, *safety, Seattle*
Glasgow made 7 unassisted tackles and forced the fumble that set up Norm Johnson's winning 40-yard field goal in overtime as the Seahawks nipped the Chargers 13-10.


Lou Witt
Lorenzo White


George Gojkovich
Mike Merriweather

NFC OFFENSE—**Randall Cunningham**, *quarterback, Philadelphia*
Cunningham passed for 229 yards and 2 touchdowns and ran for 66 yards and another score to spur the Eagles to a 31-13 victory over the Giants, New York's first loss.

NFC DEFENSE—**Mike Merriweather**, *linebacker, Minnesota*
Merriweather made 13 tackles, including 12 solo efforts and 1½ sacks, stole the ball from Neal Anderson and carried it 33 yards for a touchdown, and forced another fumble in the Vikings' 41-13 rout of the Bears.

points on 3 fumble recoveries. The most damaging was linebacker Mike Merriweather's steal from Neal Anderson and subsequent 33-yard run for a touchdown.

Kansas City's 27-24 victory over the Raiders—which completed a 1990 series sweep—moved the Chiefs into a first-place tie with Los Angeles, although head coach Marty Schottenheimer celebrated quietly.

"The only time it's important to be in first place is at the end," Schottenheimer said.

The Chiefs' Steve DeBerg led the way, passing for 3 touchdowns, including a pair of 11-yard strikes to fullback Bill Jones. On defense, Kansas City sacked Jay Schroeder 5 times and recovered his 2 fumbles, both of which led to touchdowns. Marcus Allen ran for 3 touchdowns for the Raiders.

There was a lot of running going on in Cincinnati, too, where the Colts' Eric Dickerson, who had rushed for only 183 yards in the last five games, found his form in the 34-20 victory over the Bengals. Dickerson raced for 143 yards and a touchdown, recording his fifty-ninth 100-yard game (second only to Walter Payton's 77).

While Dickerson ran, rookie Jeff George threw 3 touchdown passes .

Cincinnati's loss dropped the Bengals into a three-way tie for first in the AFC Central with Houston and Pittsburgh, two week 12 victors.

In Cleveland, the Dolphins breezed past the Browns 30-13 to move back into a tie for first place with Buffalo in the AFC East. Miami jumped to a 27-0 lead in the second quarter as Dan Marino threw 2 touchdown passes, Sammie Smith ran for a score, and cornerback Kerry Glenn raced 31 yards to score with an interception.

Smith finished with 96 yards rushing, while Marino had 245 passing, putting him over 30,000 for his career. He reached that landmark faster than any other NFL quarterback.

In Dallas, the Cowboys won their second straight game for the first time since the last two weeks of 1987, surprising Washington 27-17 on Thanksgiving Day. Rookie Emmitt Smith ran for 132 yards and a pair of touchdowns, his 48-yard score clinching the victory with 3:10 left.

"We went through some difficult times, and the tough times probably aren't over," Dallas head coach Jimmy Johnson said. "But because of hard work this might be a heck of a team someday."

Barry Sanders already is a heck of a back, and the Lions had been criticized for not giving him the ball often enough. However, in Detroit's Thanksgiving Day game, Sanders carried a season-high 23 times for 147 yards, and the Lions riddled Denver 40-27. Sanders scored on a 7-yard run and raced to the end zone on a 35-yard screen pass from Bob Gagliano. Gagliano threw 2 other touchdown passes to wide receiver Richard Johnson.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	2	0
Miami	9	2	0
Indianapolis	5	6	0
N.Y. Jets	4	8	0
New England	1	10	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	6	5	0
Houston	6	5	0
Pittsburgh	6	5	0
Cleveland	2	9	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	7	4	0
L.A. Raiders	7	4	0
Seattle	5	6	0
San Diego	5	7	0
Denver	3	8	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	10	1	0
Philadelphia	7	4	0
Washington	6	5	0
Dallas	5	7	0
Phoenix	3	8	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	9	2	0
Green Bay	6	5	0
Minnesota	5	6	0
Detroit	4	7	0
Tampa Bay	4	8	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	10	1	0
New Orleans	5	6	0
L.A. Rams	4	7	0
Atlanta	3	8	0

Scores

AFC
Houston 27, Buffalo 24
Indianapolis 34, Cincinnati 20
Kansas City 27, L.A. Raiders 24
Miami 30, Cleveland 13
Pittsburgh 24, N.Y. Jets 7
Seattle 13, San Diego 10 (OT)

NFC
Dallas 27, Washington 17
Green Bay 20, Tampa Bay 10
L.A. Rams 28, San Francisco 17
Minnesota 41, Chicago 13
New Orleans 10, Atlanta 7
Philadelphia 31, N.Y. Giants 13

Interconference
Detroit 40, Denver 27
Phoenix 34, New England 14

How High the Moon

After 11 games, the AFC Central was no closer to producing a division champion than it was on the first day of the season. Three teams—Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Houston—were tied for first place with 6-5 records.

Those analysts who favor the team with the hot quarterback, however, had to like Houston's chances down the stretch. Warren Moon, who puts the shoot in the Oilers' Run-and-Shoot attack, was having the best season of his seven-year NFL career.

In leading the Oilers to a 27-24 victory over Buffalo to snap the Bills' eight-game winning streak, he took over the AFC passing lead and the number-two spot in the NFL. Moon, who turned 34 the Sunday before, already led the league in touchdown passes (26 against only 11 interceptions) and passing yards (3,452).

"God gave Warren a lot of gifts, including great athleticism and intelligence," said Oilers offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride. "But what impresses me most about him is that he's still as hungry to learn and improve as he was when he first came into the league."

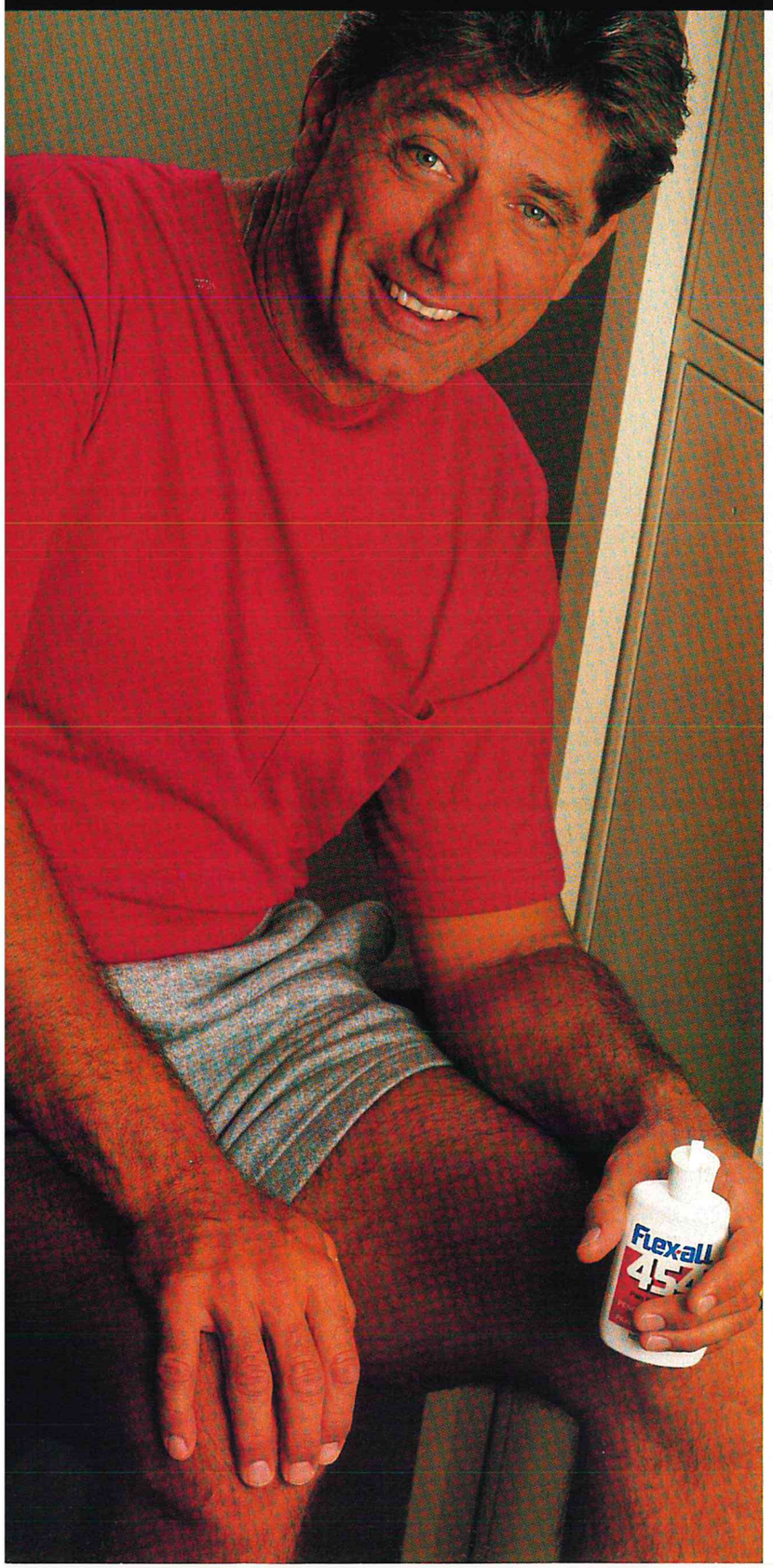
Amos Love
Warren Moon stayed hot.

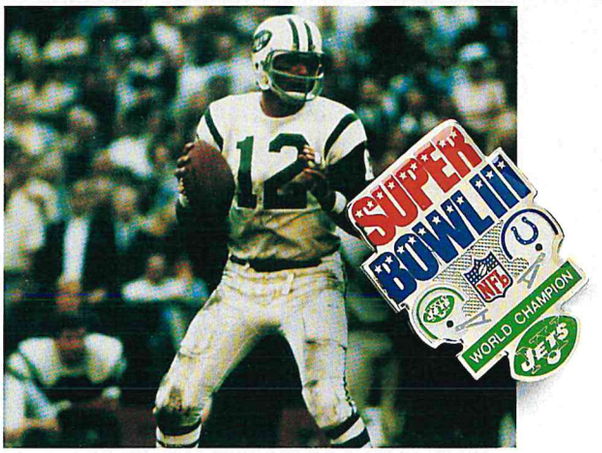
In the victory over Buffalo, Moon completed 16 of 22 passes for 300 yards and 2 touchdowns. It was his eighth 300-yard game this season and fourth in a row. With 3,452 yards, he was within sight of Dan Marino's NFL record of 5,084, set in 1984.

Moon, however, was just as excited about running back Lorenzo White. As the Oilers tried for a more balanced attack, White carried 18 times for 125 yards and a touchdown, and caught 5 passes for 89 more yards.

"Lorenzo was just fantastic tonight," Moon said. "We knew he'd be called on a lot because of the fronts they gave us, and he really responded."

"For my second guarantee in 25 years, this time I'm picking Flex-all 454."





"The last time I guaranteed who'd win the Super Bowl, I was taking a chance. This time I'm taking none at all. No matter who comes out on top, I *guarantee* that Flex-all 454 will be on the winning team.

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Week ★XXV★ 13 December 2

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	10	2	0
Miami	9	3	0
Indianapolis	5	7	0
N.Y. Jets	4	9	0
New England	1	11	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	7	5	0
Houston	6	6	0
Pittsburgh	6	6	0
Cleveland	2	10	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	8	4	0
L.A. Raiders	8	4	0
Seattle	6	6	0
San Diego	6	7	0
Denver	3	9	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	10	2	0
Philadelphia	7	5	0
Washington	7	5	0
Dallas	6	7	0
Phoenix	4	8	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	10	2	0
Green Bay	6	6	0
Minnesota	6	6	0
Tampa Bay	5	8	0
Detroit	4	8	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	11	1	0
L.A. Rams	5	7	0
New Orleans	5	7	0
Atlanta	3	9	0

Scores

AFC
Cincinnati 16, Pittsburgh 12
Kansas City 37, New England 7
L.A. Raiders 23, Denver 20
San Diego 38, N.Y. Jets 17
Seattle 13, Houston 10 (OT)

NFC
Chicago 23, Detroit 17 (OT)
Dallas 17, New Orleans 13
Minnesota 23, Green Bay 7
San Francisco 7, N.Y. Giants 3
Tampa Bay 23, Atlanta 17

Interconference
Buffalo 30, Philadelphia 23
L.A. Rams 38, Cleveland 23
Phoenix 20, Indianapolis 17
Washington 42, Miami 20

For nearly 60 minutes of action, the Giants and 49ers butted heads and bodies all over Candlestick Park in a fierce defensive struggle. Now, trailing by 4 points, the Giants had reached the San Francisco 27-yard line with three seconds left.

There was time for one last shot at the end zone.

For this game, though, the ending was appropriate. When Phil Simms went back to pass, he was sacked by 49ers defensive end Kevin Fagan—and the 10-1 49ers had beaten the 10-1 Giants 7-3. Frustrated, Simms slammed the ball to the turf.

The game had been eagerly anticipated for weeks, and it captured the largest Monday Night Football audience ever—an estimated 41 million fans.

Arthur Anderson

Kevin Fagan's sack of Phil Simms clinched the 49ers' 7-3 victory.

"This probably was the best defensive game we've played since I've been with the 49ers," said head coach and former defensive coordinator George Seifert, who has been with the team since 1980.

On the series before the final sack, the Giants drove to the 49ers' 9 with less than five minutes to play but Simms threw incomplete on four consecutive passes. The last two were broken up by safety Ronnie Lott and cornerback Darryl Pollard.

The Giants stifled the 49ers' offense, too, holding Jerry Rice to one 13-yard catch and Joe Montana to 12 completions in 29 attempts. One of Montana's completions, however, was his perfectly thrown 23-yard touchdown pass to John Taylor with 1:30 left in the first half.

The game was the highlight of a week in which the 49ers and Bears clinched the NFC West and NFC Central titles to join the Giants in the playoffs. The 49ers' division title was their fifth in a row and second under head coach George Seifert.

The Bears have a pretty good run going, too. Their 23-17 overtime victory against Detroit, combined with Green Bay's loss to Minnesota, gave the team its sixth division title in the last seven years under head coach Mike Ditka. The victory over Detroit also was Chicago's second overtime win in three weeks.

"This isn't good for my health," Ditka said.

Ditka's team trailed 17-14 late in regulation play, but linebacker Ron Rivera's interception stopped a Detroit drive and set up the Bears' 67-yard march to Kevin Butler's tying 19-yard field goal with 33 seconds left.

Then, in overtime, Detroit's Eddie Murray, who rarely misses, failed on a 35-yard field-goal attempt that would have won the game. Chicago quarterback Jim Harbaugh followed with a 50-yard touchdown pass to Neal Anderson.

In Minneapolis, the streaking Vikings reached .500, stopping the Packers 23-7 for their fifth victory in a row.

Minnesota's defense forced Packers quarterback Anthony Dilweg into 5 turnovers (3 interceptions and 2 fumbles that set up 13 points), and also sacked him 5 times. On offense, Anthony Carter made a spectacular 56-yard touchdown catch late in the third quarter that boosted the Vikings' lead from 9-7 to 16-7.

Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Seattle kicker **Norm Johnson**, after winning the Seahawks' second successive game with an overtime field goal:

"These kinds of games wear you out, even if you're a kicker."

Only 51 seconds after Carter scored, Minnesota defensive end Al Noga sacked Dilweg to force a fumble. He recovered it in the end zone for the final touchdown.

There were a lot of exciting plays at Buffalo, too, as the Bills grabbed a 24-0 first-quarter lead over the Eagles, then fought off a furious Philadelphia rally to win 30-23. The loss snapped the Eagles' five-game winning streak.

Buffalo's Jim Kelly hit 8 of 8 passes for 229 yards in the *first quarter*, including 63- and 56-yard touchdown passes to James Lofton and Andre Reed. Lofton finished with 5 catches for 174 yards and moved up to third on the all-time NFL list for receiving yardage (11,889) and up to sixth in catches (636).

Ed Webber

James Lofton caught 5 passes for 174 yards as Buffalo stopped Philadelphia.

"There's no question the first quarter just killed us," Eagles head coach Buddy Ryan said. "My God, it was unbelievable. There were people running through the secondary and we couldn't tackle them."

Kelly and Co. struck early, but the Eagles' Randall Cunningham fought back in the second and third quarters, throwing 3 touchdown passes of his own, including one of 95 yards to rookie Fred Barnett.

Buffalo's victory enabled the Bills to take over sole possession of first place in the AFC East when Miami lost to Washington. The Dolphins, the NFL's leading defensive team, were riddled

42-20 by the Redskins, who piled up 29 first downs and 467 yards, and held the ball for 40 minutes.

Washington's Earnest Byner and Mark Rypien did the most damage. Byner ran for 157 yards and 3 touchdowns, while Rypien threw 3 touchdown passes, 2 to old reliable Art Monk.

Tampa Bay's Ray Perkins became the second NFL head coach to lose his job this season when he was dismissed the day after his team snapped a six-game losing streak by rallying for a 23-17 victory over Atlanta. Assistant head coach Richard Williamson took over.

Perkins went out a winner when Vinny Testaverde and Mark Carrier teamed on a 35-yard touchdown pass that overcame a 17-16 Atlanta lead and won the game with 39 seconds left.

It was a depressing day all around for the Falcons. The loss was their fifth in a row, their seventeenth in a row on the road, and their third straight in the last 2:10 of action. Atlanta also lost quarterback Chris Miller for the rest of the season with a broken collarbone.

For the second week in a row, Seattle won by the same score, in the same way—13-10 in overtime on a Norm Johnson field goal.

The previous week, Johnson beat San Diego

Chiefs' DeBerg Endures ...and Endears

On the game's very first play, Kansas City quarterback Steve DeBerg faked a handoff to running back Christian Okoye, then dropped back and threw the ball. Wide receiver Stephone Paige caught it and raced 86 yards for a touchdown.

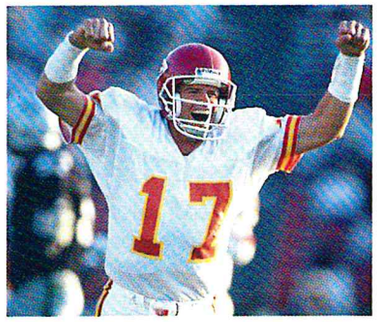
That was quite an opening salvo, but DeBerg and the Chiefs never cooled off, routing the Patriots 37-7 to maintain a first-place tie with the Raiders in the AFC West. As Kansas City hustled toward a playoff berth, 36-year-old Steve DeBerg was having the best all-around season of his 14-year NFL career.

"He's a big reason for our success this year," Chiefs wide receiver Emile Harry said. "I think he's a great quarterback."

Against New England, the slick-faking DeBerg passed for 312 yards and 2 touchdowns in the first half. In the second half, he mostly handed the ball off. Barry Word took it and ran for 112 yards.

"That's as well as I've ever seen an offense function for a full half," DeBerg said of the opening 30 minutes.

DeBerg had been functioning pretty well all season himself. After 12 games, he



Allen Dean Steele

Steve DeBerg celebrated again.

ranked third in the AFC in passing, having thrown 17 touchdown passes and only 3 interceptions. He had a streak of seven successive games without an interception.

It was nice that the 14-year veteran finally was getting a chance to stay in the lineup. During his career, he had been replaced in San Francisco by Joe Montana, in Denver by John Elway, and in Tampa Bay by Vinny Testaverde.

"My main goal," DeBerg said, "is to try not to have the number-one pick in the entire NFL draft come to Kansas City and beat me out."

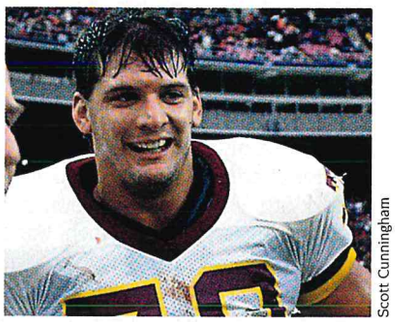
It's times like this you find out what

Hours after the tornado, Allstate Catastrophe Team experts were on the scene. Mr. and Mrs. Fassiotto, who own this home, were given an on-the-spot advance for food, clothing and temporary living expenses the next morning. Allstate then helped coordinate salvage operations, and arranged for a

Players of the Week

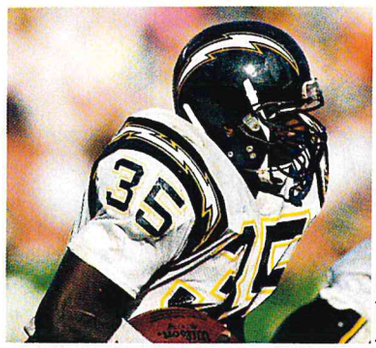
AFC OFFENSE—**Marion Butts**, *running back, San Diego*
Butts, the NFL's leading rusher, ran for 159 yards and 2 touchdowns and caught a 26-yard pass to help set up a field goal in the Chargers' 38-17 rout of the New York Jets.

AFC DEFENSE—**Bruce Smith**, *defensive end, Buffalo*
Smith had 8 tackles, including 2 sacks and another tackle for a loss, and added 4 quarterback hurries to help the Bills beat the Eagles 30-23.



Scott Cunningham

Redskins' Jim Lachey



Amos Love

Chargers' Marion Butts

NFC OFFENSE—**Jim Lachey**, *tackle, Washington*
With Lachey and the offensive line leading the way, the Redskins compiled 29 first downs and 467 yards in total offense against Miami, the NFL's leading defensive team, as Washington won 42-20.

NFC DEFENSE—**Al Noga**, *defensive end, Minnesota*
Noga sacked quarterback Anthony Dilweg, forced a fumble, and recovered in the end zone for a touchdown as the Vikings beat the Packers 23-7.

with a 40-yard kick. This time he beat Houston with a 42-yard kick. Both winning field goals were set up by fumble recoveries. Linebacker Tony Woods belted Houston wide receiver Bernard Ford to force the fumble that linebacker David Wyman recovered to set up this one.

In Cleveland, the Rams sent the Browns spiraling to their seventh successive loss as Jim Everett threw 4 touchdown passes in a 38-23 victory. Three of Everett's scoring passes went to running backs Gaston Green, Robert Delpino, and Buford McGee. Wide receiver Henry Ellard caught 6 passes to run his career total to 402, breaking Hall of Fame enshrinee Tom Fears's club record of 400.

The Cardinals won their second game in a row for the first time this season with some great teamwork by cornerbacks Cedric Mack and Marcus Turner. Phoenix was trailing Indianapolis 17-13 with about 10 minutes left when Mack intercepted Jeff George at the Colts' 35. Mack returned the ball 14 yards to the 21, then lateraled to Turner, who dashed the last 21 yards for the winning touchdown.

"I wasn't surprised when Cedric tossed me the ball," Turner said. "We've been doing it so much in practice that it just seemed the natural thing to do."

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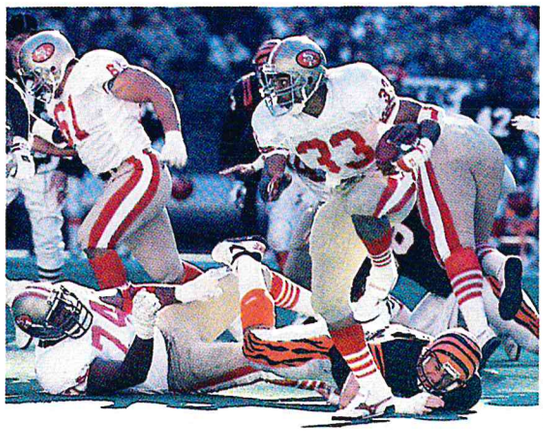
Week ★XXV★ 14 December 9

After starting the season 10-0, the Giants had lost two games in a row and were in danger of falling to 10-3. As the fourth quarter began, they trailed red-hot Minnesota 15-10.

When the game ended, however, the Giants had won 23-15 to clinch their second successive NFC East title and snap the Vikings' five-game winning streak.

"We played a great game," Vikings quarterback Rich Gannon said. "But that one-man wrecking crew—L.T. —played a great fourth quarter. He's relentless. Every time I turned around, he was in my face."



Michael Heinz

The 49ers, led by Roger Craig, rushed for 202 yards.

L.T., who is linebacker Lawrence Taylor, not only was in Gannon's face, he was in everyone else's, too. He made 12 tackles, had 2½ sacks, forced a fumble, pressured Gannon into 2 interceptions that set up a pair of fourth-quarter field goals, and even made an inspirational halftime speech.

"He wouldn't let us lose," Giants head coach Bill Parcells said.

Parcells was inspiring, too. He spent the night before the game in the hospital with a kidney stone, returned to the sidelines to coach on Sunday despite being in severe pain, and then went back to the hospital.

The Giants became the third NFC team to win their division—joining the 49ers and Bears—as Matt Bahr kicked 3 field goals, rookie Rodney Hampton rushed for 78 yards, and Ottis Anderson scored 2 touchdowns. Anderson became only the eighth NFL player to rush for more than 10,000 yards.

With just three weeks left in the season, five teams were in the playoffs as Buffalo and Miami joined the three NFC division winners. The Dolphins earned their first playoff berth since 1985 when they rallied to defeat the Eagles 23-20 in overtime. Buffalo stayed a game ahead of Miami in the AFC East with a 31-7 whipping of Indianapolis.

Just as Taylor sparked the Giants, end Bruce Smith, another great defender, led the Bills. Smith sacked the Colts' Jeff George four times in the first half as Buffalo jumped to a 21-0 halftime lead and never looked back. Smith broke his own club record of 15 sacks and ran his NFL-leading total to 19.

On offense, Jim Kelly threw 34- and 7-yard touchdown passes to Andre Reed on the Bills' first two possessions, and Thurman Thomas scored on 5- and 23-yard runs.

"I've said all week that the Buffalo Bills are probably the best team in pro football at this particular moment," Colts head coach Ron Meyer said. "We did absolutely nothing to disprove that."

In Miami, the Dolphins overcame a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit to top the Eagles. First, Dan Marino led a 49-yard drive that ended with his 6-yard touchdown pass to Mark Duper with 5:10 left. Then, with time running out, Marino directed a 71-yard march to a 34-yard field goal by Pete Stoyanovich that tied the score with three seconds left.

Both teams had the ball twice in overtime...and Miami drove to Stoyanovich's game-winning 39-yard field goal with just 2:28 left. Marino passed for 2 touchdowns and a

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	11	2	0	N.Y. Giants	11	2	0
Miami	10	3	0	Washington	8	5	0
Indianapolis	5	8	0	Philadelphia	7	6	0
N.Y. Jets	4	9	0	Dallas	6	7	0
New England	1	12	0	Phoenix	5	8	0
AFC Central				**NFC Central**			
Cincinnati	7	6	0	Chicago	10	3	0
Houston	7	6	0	Green Bay	6	7	0
Pittsburgh	7	6	0	Minnesota	6	7	0
Cleveland	2	11	0	Tampa Bay	5	8	0
AFC West				Detroit	4	9	0
Kansas City	9	4	0	**NFC West**			
L.A. Raiders	9	4	0	San Francisco	12	1	0
Seattle	7	6	0	New Orleans	6	7	0
San Diego	6	7	0	L.A. Rams	5	8	0
Denver	3	10	0	Atlanta	3	10	0

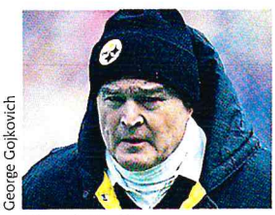
Scores

AFC
Buffalo 31, Indianapolis 7
Houston 58, Cleveland 14
Kansas City 31, Denver 20
Pittsburgh 24, New England 3

NFC
New Orleans 24, L.A. Rams 20
N.Y. Giants 23, Minnesota 15
Phoenix 24, Atlanta 13
Washington 10, Chicago 9

Interconference
L.A. Raiders 38, Detroit 31
Miami 23, Philadelphia 20 (OT)
San Francisco 20, Cincinnati 17 (OT)
Seattle 20, Green Bay 14

Noll x 200



George Gojkovich

Chuck Noll

The game wasn't special, but the occasion was.

The Steelers moved back into a tie for first place in the AFC Central with an easy 24-3 victory over New England. For Pittsburgh, it was an important victory. For New England, it was just another loss in a season of 12 of them.

But for Steelers head coach Chuck Noll, it was the 200th win of his career—and that *was* special. Only four other NFL coaches ever have won 200 games—George Halas (325), Don Shula (295), Tom Landry (270), and Curly Lambeau (229).

Noll, however, was uncomfortable talking about it.

"You know the coach," said second-year back Tim Worley. "He doesn't pay attention to stuff like that."

"Two hundred?" Noll said when he was asked about the milestone before the game. "I'm just looking forward to a win. I don't care what number it is."

Despite winning a milestone game, Noll didn't want to reflect on the past.

"I don't have that habit," he said. "I try to keep my focus on what's ahead...about now and tomorrow.

"Sure, it makes you stop and think—about how long you've been around, I guess, more than anything."

At 58, Noll had done more than just be around since taking over the Steelers in 1969. He's the only coach to win four Super Bowls, and, going into 1990, he had won nine division titles and taken Pittsburgh to the playoffs 12 times.

Noll was more concerned with the victories to come.

"If you spend all your time reflecting about the past," he said, "that's a sign of old age."

Some of the players that brought you this ad.

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Scott Fulhage

Emile Harry

Brent Jones

Ron Lewis

Guy McIntyre

James Milling

Roland Mitchell

Bubba Paris

Steve Pelluer

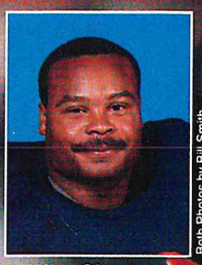
Wayne Radloff

Galand Thaxton

Spencer Tillman

Steve Wallace

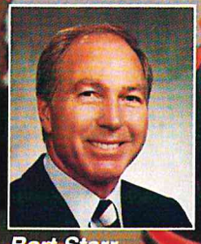
Congratulations to Mike Singletary, the 1991 Athletes in Action Bart Starr Award Recipient



Both Photos by Bill Smith

Mike Singletary
1991 Winner

"Many people have asked me about my intensity—as a football player as well as a husband and a father. Basically, it boils down to God's grace. I'm simply trying to give God back what He has given me."



Bart Starr

Photo Courtesy Seattle Seahawks

Steve Largent
1989 Winner

Brian Tirpak

Anthony Munoz
1990 Winner

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season-high 365 yards. The Eagles' Randall Cunningham also threw 2 touchdown passes and ran for 94 yards.

There was another overtime game in Cincinnati, where the Bengals made the mistake of losing the coin flip to the 49ers. That gave Joe Montana the ball...and he drove his team 75 yards to Mike Cofer's game-winning 23-yard field goal. The 49ers' 20-17 victory was their seventh in a row over the Bengals—the last four occurring in either the last two minutes or in overtime.

"We play our best football when everything's on the line," said 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice, who caught 8 passes for 101 yards, including 3 on the game-winning drive. "Once we got the ball, I knew we were going to score."

Montana and Rice also sparked a 55-yard drive to Cofer's other field goal, which tied the game 17-17 with 57 seconds left in regulation. The 49ers rushed for 202 yards, 97 by Roger Craig, and increased their NFL-record road winning streak to 16 games. The Bengals, who fell into a three-way tie in the AFC Central with Pittsburgh and Houston, also lost safety Rickey Dixon with a broken leg.

The Oilers barely stopped for a breath, scoring 45 points in the first half to rout the hapless Browns 58-14 in Houston. It was the most points the Oilers have scored in the 31-year history of the franchise, and the most the Browns ever have yielded in a regular-season game. It also was the Browns' eighth successive loss.

"I'm really not sure what to say other than it was a nightmare out there, and the whole season has been a nightmare for us," Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar said.

The Oilers scored 6 touchdowns and a field goal on their first 7 possessions. Safety Terry Kinard's 47-yard interception return set up Houston's first touchdown, and his 72-yard fumble return scored the third.

The Oilers' Lorenzo White spent half the day in the end zone, scoring touchdowns on runs of 10, 1, 7, and 5 yards, while running for 116 yards. Eric Metcalf gave Cleveland a bright moment when he returned a kickoff 101 yards for a touchdown.

The Chiefs and Raiders stayed locked in a tie for first in the AFC West, although the Raiders had to rally to outscore Detroit 38-31 in a matchup that began like a basketball game.

The Lions scored touchdowns on three of their first four possessions, while the Raiders scored 2 touchdowns themselves as the teams combined for 35 points in the first quarter—the second-highest total in NFL history.

Barry Sanders, who ran 35 and 5 yards to score on the Lions' first two series, finished with 176 yards rushing, but Bo Jackson helped lead the Raiders back with 129 yards. Bo scored on a 55-yard run that cut the Lions' halftime lead to 24-21.

The Raiders' defense adjusted in the second half, and Jay Schroeder threw 2 touchdown passes to put Los Angeles ahead for good. Schroeder also threw a 68-yard scoring pass to Willie Gault on the Raiders' first play from scrimmage in the first quarter as Los Angeles improved its Monday night record to 29-6-1.

In Kansas City, Steve DeBerg stayed hot by throwing 3 touchdown passes to lead the Chiefs to a 31-20 victory over Denver. It was Kansas City's fourth win in a row and Denver's sixth straight loss.

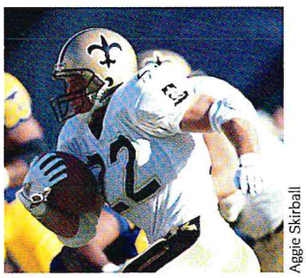
Another streak was snapped, however, when Chiefs head coach Marty Schottenheimer beat the Broncos for the first time after six successive losses, including two in AFC Championship Games when he coached the Cleveland Browns.

In Washington, the Redskins stayed on the trail of a playoff berth by slipping past the Bears 10-9 on Chip Lohmiller's 35-yard field goal with 2:14 left. Safety Todd Bowles set up the winning kick with a fumble recovery at the Chicago 25.

Players of the Week

Bill Mount

Bills' Bruce Smith



Aggie Skirball

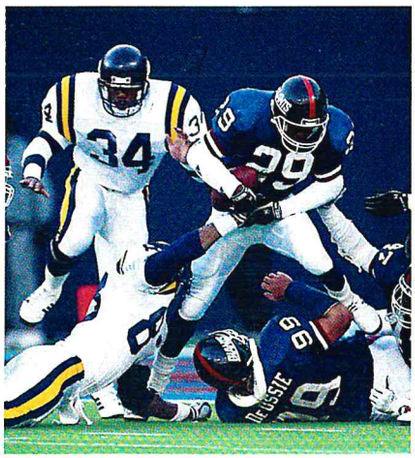
Saints' Gill Fenerty

AFC OFFENSE—**Dan Marino**, *quarterback, Miami*
Marino passed for 365 yards and 2 touchdowns to rally the Dolphins to a 23-20 victory over the Eagles in overtime.

AFC DEFENSE—**Bruce Smith**, *defensive end, Buffalo*
Smith had 4 sacks and 9 total tackles, broke up a pass, and had 2 quarterback pressures, as the Bills breezed past the Colts 31-7. It was Smith's second consecutive player-of-the-week award.

NFC OFFENSE—**Gill Fenerty**, *running back, New Orleans*
Fenerty, who spent three years in the Canadian Football League (1987-89), ran for 104 yards on 10 carries, including a 60-yard touchdown sprint, to help the Saints past the Rams 24-20.

NFC DEFENSE—**Lawrence Taylor**, *linebacker, New York Giants*
Taylor had 12 tackles, including 2 ½ sacks, forced a fumble, and pressured Vikings quarterback Rich Gannon into 2 interceptions that set up field goals in the fourth quarter.



Jim Turner

Safety Myron Guyton (29) recovered a fumble as the Giants won 23-15.

Quote

Giants quarterback **Phil Simms**, asked about head coach Bill Parcells, who directed the team to a victory over Minnesota despite suffering from a kidney stone:
"He was in a lot of pain, but he still yelled a lot."

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Week ★XXV★ 15 December 15

The Kansas City Chiefs had won four consecutive games until they ran into Warren Moon. What happened next stunned Chiefs head coach Marty Schottenheimer.

"I would have bet my house that Warren Moon wouldn't throw for five-hundred yards against our defense," Schottenheimer said. "I'm glad I didn't."

Moon passed for 527 yards—the second-highest total in NFL history—to lead the Oilers to a 27-10 victory over Kansas City that kept them tied for first place in the AFC Central Division. Moon missed Norm Van Brocklin's 39-year-old record of 554 yards by just 27.

"It was one of the most unbelievable, incredible, awesome displays any quarterback ever put on," Chiefs linebacker Derrick Thomas said.

Included in the Houston quarterback's unbelievable day were 11 completions of 20 or more yards, 2 scoring passes to Tony Jones, and an 87-yard touchdown collaboration with Haywood Jeffires.

As great as his day was, Moon could have broken the record the Rams' Van Brocklin set against the old New York Yanks in 1951. He had *seven* passes dropped and lost another 32-yard completion to Jeffires on a controversial instant-replay reversal.

When Houston got the ball back with 2:20 left to play, Moon called three successive running plays, then fell on the ball as the game ended.

"I was not going to throw the ball just so I would have gotten the record," Moon said. "Records are not that important to me. The key is the win."

While Moon had a banner day, it was a disastrous weekend for many other top NFL quarterbacks. Five prominent signal callers, including three from certain playoff teams, were injured, and another had surgery. Consider:

- In a potential Super Bowl matchup, Buffalo outlasted the Giants 17-13, but both teams lost their quarterbacks.

The Bills' Jim Kelly suffered partial tears to a knee ligament and to cartilage and was declared out for three weeks. He was given a chance to return for the divisional playoff game.

Shortly after Kelly limped off, the Giants' Phil Simms did the same, with a severely sprained foot. Simms's foot was placed in a cast for four weeks, and he had only an outside chance of playing in the NFC Championship Game or Super Bowl, if the Giants got that far.

- In Pontiac, where the Lions shocked the Bears 38-21, Chicago's Jim Harbaugh went down with a separated shoulder on his right (throwing) arm and was declared out for the season and probably all of the playoffs.
- In Kansas City, where Moon blitzed the Chiefs, Kansas City's Steve DeBerg suffered a broken little finger on his left hand and had a pin inserted in it. DeBerg had a good chance to return in a week—if he could stand the pain of having the ball jam into his finger every time he took a snap.
- Green Bay lost quarterback Don Majkowski for the season

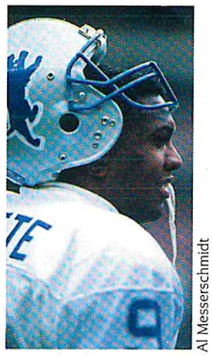
Players of the Week

Herb Weitman

Warren Moon

AFC OFFENSE—**Warren Moon**, *quarterback, Houston*
Moon passed for 527 yards—second-highest total in NFL history—and 3 touchdowns to lead the Oilers past the Chiefs 27-10. He completed 27 of 45 attempts, with no interceptions.

AFC DEFENSE—**Riki Ellison**, *linebacker, Los Angeles Raiders*
Ellison made 11 tackles, broke up a pass, and set up the Raiders' first touchdown with an interception as Los Angeles defeated Cincinnati 24-7.



Al Messerschmidt

Rodney Peete

NFC OFFENSE—**Rodney Peete**, *quarterback, Detroit*
Peete passed for 316 yards and 4 touchdowns—2 to Robert Clark and 44- and 68-yard bombs to Richard Johnson and Terry Greer—as he led the Lions to a 38-21 surprise of the Bears.

NFC DEFENSE—**James Washington**, *safety, Dallas*
Washington intercepted 2 passes and recovered a fumble to set up 3 touchdowns as Dallas pounded Phoenix 41-10. He also made 4 tackles and forced the fumble that he recovered.

Tall in the Saddle Again

In 1989, Jimmy Johnson's first year as head coach, the Dallas Cowboys had a 1-15 record.

Twelve months later, things had turned around. With two games left in the season, the Cowboys had the inside track for the last NFC playoff berth. Their record was 7-7, a game ahead of four other contenders.

To get to .500, the Cowboys had to beat a Phoenix team that had won three in a row. They did it, trampling the Cardinals 41-10 and walking off the field with the longest winning streak in the NFL: four games.

"We've done better than I ever imagined," Johnson said. "We knew we had to win this game, and the team responded. I would say it's our most important win. Now we're in a position to make the playoffs."

Ron Ross

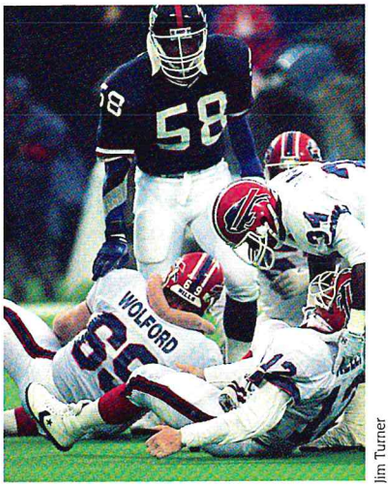
Aikman hands off to Smith.

In stopping Phoenix, Dallas's defense held the Cardinals' outstanding rookie running back, Johnny Johnson, to 22 yards on 13 carries. Meanwhile, the Cowboys' own bright rookie, Emmitt Smith, rushed for 103 yards and a club-record-equaling 4 touchdowns. Maturing quarterback Troy Aikman hit 12 of 18 passes for another score.

"The Cowboys are vastly improved," Cardinals head coach Joe Bugel said. "Emmitt Smith is just tremendous. When you've got a good quarterback like Aikman and a good running back [like Smith], you've got a chance to win every time you play. I have nothing but praise for them."

Week 15★

Jim Turner



Jim Turner

Injuries to Simms (above) and Kelly (right) left playoffs up to reserves.

after shoulder surgery earlier in the week.

● Cleveland's Bernie Kosar fractured the thumb on his throwing hand in a 13-10 victory over Atlanta and probably would miss the season's final two games.

The Bills, Giants, and Bears already had clinched playoff spots, the Chiefs were close, and Green Bay still had a chance.

While these teams were scrambling to shore up their offenses, three others celebrated after reaching the playoffs. Washington and Philadelphia became the fourth and fifth NFC teams (out of six) to qualify, earning wild-card berths. The Raiders became the third AFC team to qualify.

The Redskins won their third game in a row, sloshing through a New England downpour to hand the Patriots their twelfth consecutive loss, 25-10. Washington's Earnest Byner ran for 149 yards and a touchdown on a career-high 39 carries.

In Philadelphia, the Eagles jumped all over the Packers 31-0 as running back Keith Byars threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Toney and caught a 12-yard scoring pass from Randall Cunningham. It was Byars's third touchdown pass of the season in 3 attempts.

Cunningham also scrambled 17 yards for a touchdown, jumping the last 3 yards over cornerback Mark Lee to get into the end zone.

"He's done some amazing things," Eagles tackle Ron Heller said. "I didn't think he was gonna get in, then I saw him leap like a long jumper."

In Los Angeles, Bo Jackson continued to do some amazing things, too, running for 117 yards on just 8 carries in a 24-7 victory over the Bengals. It was his third straight 100-yard game. Bo set up the Raiders' final touchdown when he started left, ran into traffic, reversed his field, and ran 88 yards to the Cincinnati 1, where a diving tackle by cornerback and ex-400-meter sprinter Rod Jones brought him down. In his previous two games, Jackson had run 62 and 55 yards for touchdowns.

"Everyone who plays this guy knows that you hold your breath on every snap," Bengals head coach Sam Wyche said.

Jay Schroeder balanced the Los Angeles attack with 3 touchdown passes, including 5- and 44-yard throws to Tim Brown. The victory not only clinched the Raiders' first playoff berth since 1985, it left them a game ahead of Kansas City in their battle for the AFC West title.

In Tampa, the Buccaneers played their first game under head coach Richard Williamson and surprised Minnesota 26-13.

"He prepared us well and gave us a positive attitude," quarterback Vinny Testaverde said. "One of the things he told us was to go out and have a lot of fun."

Testaverde started having fun in the first quarter when he scrambled 48 yards for a touchdown. In all, he ran 7 times for 105 yards and threw a 25-yard scoring pass to Mark Carrier, while rookie Steve Christie kicked a club-record-tying 4 field goals. The Tampa Bay defense recovered 3 fumbles and intercepted 5 passes by the Vikings' Rich Gannon and Wade Wilson.

Miami stayed a game behind Buffalo in the AFC East with a 24-17 victory over Seattle. The Seahawks drove inside the Miami 35 five times in the second half, but scored just 1 touchdown. Linebacker John Offerdahl and cornerback Tim McKyer stopped two of the drives with interceptions, and two more ended on missed field goals by Norm Johnson.

Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Raiders defensive tackle **Bob Golic**, who watched Cincinnati's Rod Jones chase Bo Jackson the length of the field and tackle him on the 1-yard line after an 88-yard run: "I thought he was going to chase him into the parking lot."

Meanwhile, Miami's Dan Marino threw 2 touchdown passes and increased his season total to 3,084 passing yards, equaling Joe Montana's NFL record of seven 3,000-yard seasons in the process.

In Anaheim, the 49ers avenged their only loss of the season by cruising past the Rams 26-10. Montana lobbed a 60-yard touchdown pass to Jerry Rice, and rookie Dexter Carter ran for 124 yards, including a 74-yard scoring run.

The victory extended San Francisco's NFL-record road winning streak to 17 and guaranteed the 49ers home-field advantage through the playoffs.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	12	2	0
Miami	11	3	0
Indianapolis	6	8	0
N.Y. Jets	4	10	0
New England	1	13	0
AFC Central			
Houston	8	6	0
Pittsburgh	8	6	0
Cincinnati	7	7	0
Cleveland	3	11	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	10	4	0
Kansas City	9	5	0
Seattle	7	7	0
San Diego	6	8	0
Denver	4	10	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	11	3	0
Washington	9	5	0
Philadelphia	8	6	0
Dallas	7	7	0
Phoenix	5	9	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	10	4	0
Green Bay	6	8	0
Minnesota	6	8	0
Tampa Bay	6	8	0
Detroit	5	9	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	13	1	0
New Orleans	6	8	0
L.A. Rams	5	9	0
Atlanta	3	11	0

Scores

AFC

Denver 20, San Diego 10
Houston 27, Kansas City 10
Indianapolis 29, N.Y. Jets 21
L.A. Raiders 24, Cincinnati 7
Miami 24, Seattle 17

NFC

Dallas 41, Phoenix 10
Detroit 38, Chicago 21
Philadelphia 31, Green Bay 0
San Francisco 26, L.A. Rams 10
Tampa Bay 26, Minnesota 13

Interconference

Buffalo 17, N.Y. Giants 13
Cleveland 13, Atlanta 10
Pittsburgh 9, New Orleans 6
Washington 25, New England 10

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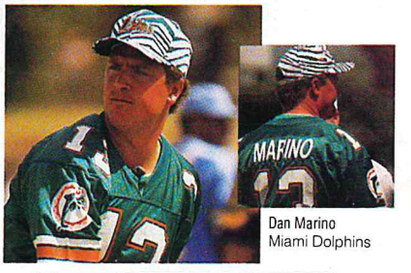

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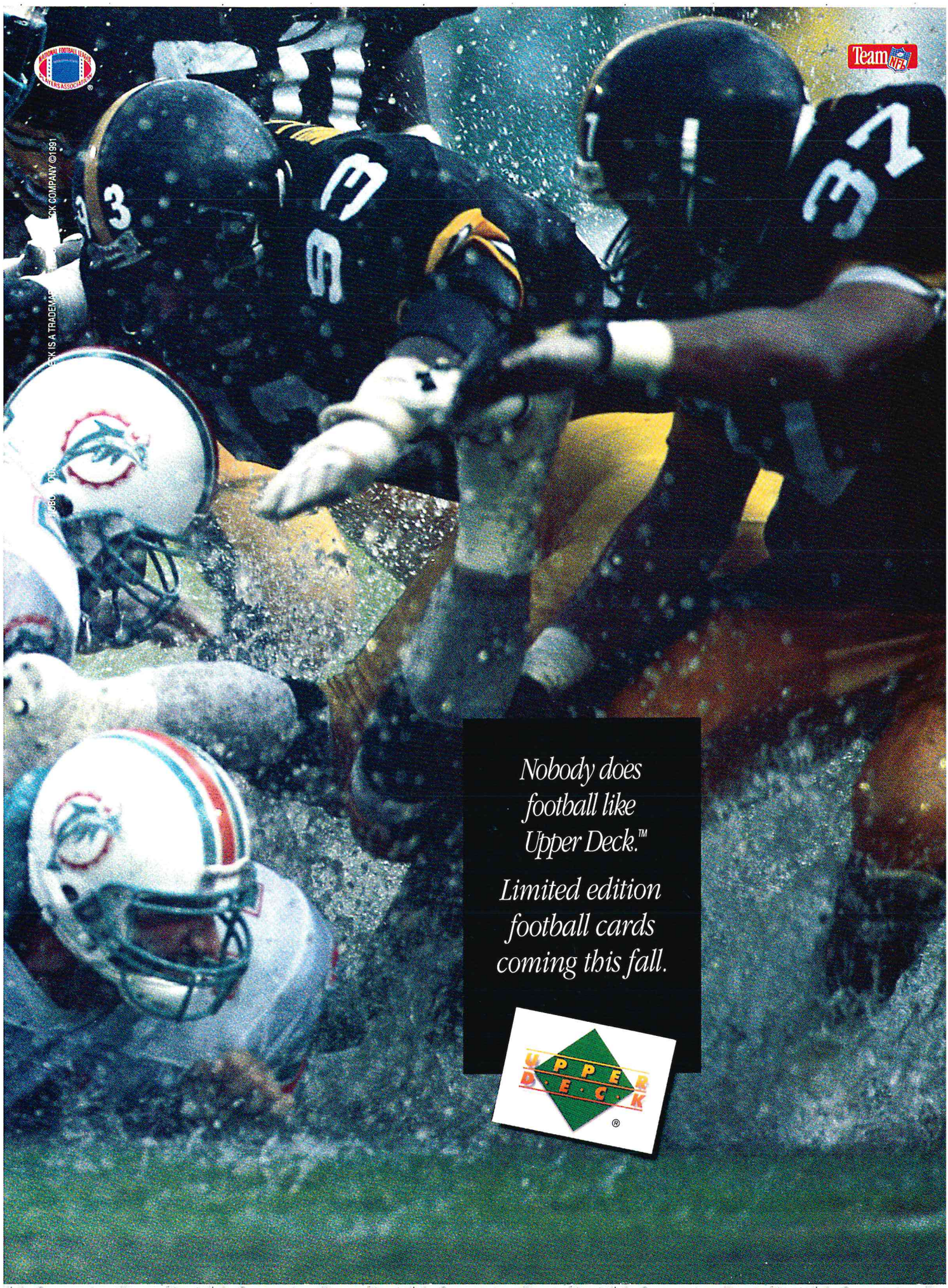
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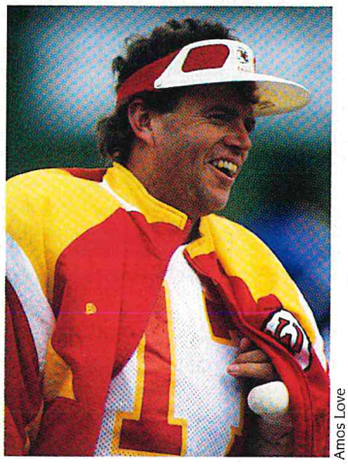
Week ★XXV★ 16 December 22

A week before, Warren Moon passed for 527 yards—the second-highest total in NFL history. Now, he was probably out for the season.

As the Oilers lost to Cincinnati 40-20, Moon, the NFL leader in passing yards (4,689) and touchdowns (33), suffered a dislocated thumb on his passing hand. He figured to be sidelined for three or four weeks, returning if the Oilers qualified for the playoffs and still were alive. The loss, however, knocked Houston out of a first-place tie in the AFC Central Division.



Amos Love

Steve DeBerg overcame a broken finger to lead the Chiefs.

"It's devastating," Moon said. "You work so hard to get to this point. We've been close so many times that it's frustrating. I'm not used to this. I'm not used to being injured."

The NFL was full of injured quarterbacks. Moon was joined on the wounded list by Troy Aikman of Dallas and Wade Wilson of Minnesota, each of whom suffered a separated shoulder on his passing arm. Aikman hoped to return if the Cowboys made the playoffs as a wild-card team, but doctors weren't optimistic.

The injuries to Moon, Aikman, and Wilson brought the total of starting quarterbacks lost in the last two weeks to eight—not counting Kansas City's Steve DeBerg, who shrugged off a broken finger on his left hand to lead the Chiefs to a victory over San Diego.

If you lose your starter, of course, it pays to have a good backup—and Buffalo had one. While injured Jim Kelly cheered from the sideline, Frank Reich stepped in and led the Bills to a 24-14 victory over the Dolphins. That not only clinched the team's third successive AFC East title, but also guaranteed Buffalo the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. (The Bills were 8-0 at home this season.)

Reich seems to thrive in this type of situation. When Kelly was hurt in 1989, the backup quarterback led the Bills to a 3-0 record.

"He could be starting for a lot of teams in this league," Miami defensive coordinator Tom Olivadotti said.

The 29-year-old Reich completed 15 of 21 passes for a career-high 234 yards, including touchdown passes to James Lofton and Andre Reed. Thurman Thomas rushed for 154 yards and another touchdown.

In San Diego, DeBerg took the field with a big cast on his broken little finger, and immediately hit his first 8 passes. He stayed sharp, passing for 251 yards and 2 touchdowns as the Chiefs nipped the Chargers 24-21 and became the ninth team (of 12) to clinch a spot in postseason play.

Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Bills head coach **Marv Levy**, told that fans had torn down the goal posts after his team clinched the AFC East title: "That's too bad. We're going to need them later."

"I take my hat off to DeBerg," said Chargers head coach Dan Henning. "He's had a heck of a year."

The victory kept Kansas City within a game of the Raiders in the AFC West, keeping alive the team's hopes for the division championship, but it wasn't easy.

The Chiefs led 21-7 at halftime, but the Chargers caught them at 21-21 in the fourth quarter on Kitrick Taylor's 55-yard punt return for a touchdown.

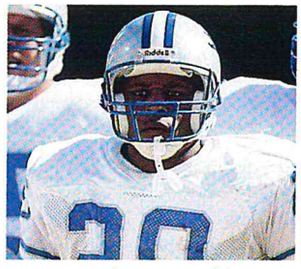
Then, with just over six minutes left in the game, the Chiefs were backed up on their own 5, in a third-and-6 situation. DeBerg lobbed a screen pass to running back Todd McNair, and McNair, who already had caught a

Don't Talk 'Jinx' to Lions' Sanders

If there's such a thing as a sophomore jinx, Barry Sanders hasn't heard of it.

The Detroit running back was the NFL's consensus rookie of the year in 1989 when he rushed for a Lions-record 1,470 yards (second in the NFL) and 14 touchdowns, and averaged 5.3 yards a carry.

While his second season neared its conclusion, Sanders still was fooling tacklers all over the league. As the Lions defeated the Packers 24-17 in frigid Green Bay—the wind-chill factor was minus-28 degrees—Sanders dodged and darted for 133 yards on 19 carries, caught 4 passes for 49 yards, and ran 6 yards for the winning touchdown with 3:37 left. He set up his winning score with a 37-yard run.



Bob Rosato

Barry Sanders stayed hot.

This latest outburst improved Sanders's season rushing total to an NFC-leading 1,281 yards. He had scored 15 touchdowns, 12 rushing and 3 on his 35 receptions, and was averaging 5.2 yards a carry. Even other running backs were impressed.

"He's quick and he's very, very strong," said the Colts' Eric Dickerson, who watched from the sidelines when Sanders rushed for 176 yards and 2 touchdowns two weeks earlier against the Raiders. "That's what makes him great."

"Barry Sanders is my new idol," the Raiders' Bo Jackson said. "I love the way he runs."

Detroit head coach Wayne Fontes was just happy to have him. On Thanksgiving Day, after Sanders had rushed for 147 yards and scored twice in a victory over Denver, Fontes smiled and said:

"I want to give thanks for this special day. I also want to give thanks for Barry Sanders."

Week 16★

40-yard touchdown pass, eluded three tacklers and ran 65 yards to the San Diego 30 to set up Nick Lowery's winning 32-yard field goal with 2:46 left.

The Raiders stayed ahead of the Chiefs by winning their fourth consecutive game, stopping the Vikings 28-24 in the Metrodome.

"We're on a roll," Raiders defensive end Greg Townsend said.

Quarterback Jay Schroeder certainly was. He threw 4 touchdown passes, all to different receivers, as Los Angeles took a 28-10 fourth-quarter lead and hung on to win. Wide receiver Willie Gault didn't catch any of Schroeder's touchdown passes, but he did grab 56- and 61-yard bombs to set up two of them.

In Philadelphia, Dallas would have clinched a wild-card playoff spot with a victory, but the Cowboys lost Aikman in the first quarter and went on to lose the game to the Eagles 17-3. Philadelphia intercepted Aikman's backup, Babe Laufenberg, 4 times, including a 35-yard runback for a touchdown by cornerback Eric Allen.

On offense, running back Keith Byars threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to rookie Calvin Williams, Byars's fourth touchdown pass in four attempts this season.

In Pittsburgh, the Browns played Santa Claus two days before Christmas, turning the ball over to the Steelers nine times, including an NFL-record-tying *eight* fumbles. Not surprisingly, Pittsburgh won 35-0.

"They gave us the ball," Pittsburgh cornerback Rod Woodson said. "Sometimes, even though we didn't want it, they gave it to us."

The Browns were so generous that they fumbled the ball away on their first three plays, and Steelers quarterback Bubby Brister responded with 3 quick touchdown passes, 2 to tight end Mike Mularkey. In all, Brister threw 4 touchdown passes as the Steelers took over sole possession of first place in the AFC Central.

In San Francisco, the 49ers played without Joe Montana, who was nursing an abdominal strain, and also rested two other injured stars—safety Ronnie Lott and running back Roger Craig. Although quarterback Steve Young passed for 208 yards and ran for 102, the 49ers lost 4 fumbles and their second game, 13-10 to New Orleans. The victory kept the Saints' playoff hopes alive.

New Orleans got two big breaks in the fourth quarter. Linebacker Vaughan Johnson recovered a fumble to set up Morten Andersen's game-winning 40-yard field goal with 4:43 left. Four minutes later, linebacker Rickey Jackson recovered another fumble—this one after a muffed exchange between Young and Dexter Carter—to stop the 49ers' last drive at the Saints' 23 with 47 seconds left.

In Chicago, Mike Tomczak replaced injured Jim Harbaugh at quarterback and led the Bears to a 27-14 victory over Tampa Bay. Tomczak passed for 2 touchdowns and ran for 1, while rookie safety Mark Carrier got his club-record tenth interception to set up a touchdown.

It still was a depressing week for the Bears. On Friday morning, rookie defensive tackle Fred Washington was killed in an automobile accident.

In Indianapolis, the Redskins outgained the Colts by 218 yards, had the ball for nearly 40 minutes, got 154 rushing yards from Earnest Byner—and lost 35-28 when Colts rookie cornerback Alan Grant returned an interception 25 yards for the winning touchdown with 50 seconds left.

The Colts had tied the game just 31 seconds earlier on rookie Jeff George's third touchdown pass—12 yards to Bill Brooks. George also threw a pair of touchdown passes to 35-year-old Stanley Morgan.

Ed Webber

Buffalo won the AFC East by stopping Miami and Sammie Smith.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	13	2	0
Miami	11	4	0
Indianapolis	7	8	0
N.Y. Jets	5	10	0
New England	1	14	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	9	6	0
Cincinnati	8	7	0
Houston	8	7	0
Cleveland	3	12	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	11	4	0
Kansas City	10	5	0
Seattle	8	7	0
San Diego	6	9	0
Denver	4	11	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	12	3	0
Philadelphia	9	6	0
Washington	9	6	0
Dallas	7	8	0
Phoenix	5	10	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	11	4	0
Detroit	6	9	0
Green Bay	6	9	0
Minnesota	6	9	0
Tampa Bay	6	9	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	13	2	0
New Orleans	7	8	0
L.A. Rams	5	10	0
Atlanta	4	11	0

Scores

AFC
Buffalo 24, Miami 14
Cincinnati 40, Houston 20
Kansas City 24, San Diego 21
N.Y. Jets 42, New England 7
Pittsburgh 35, Cleveland 0
Seattle 17, Denver 12

NFC
Atlanta 20, L.A. Rams 13
Chicago 27, Tampa Bay 14
Detroit 24, Green Bay 17
New Orleans 13, San Francisco 10
N.Y. Giants 24, Phoenix 21
Philadelphia 17, Dallas 3

Interconference
Indianapolis 35, Washington 28
L.A. Raiders 28, Minnesota 24

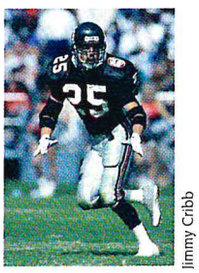
Players of the Week

AFC OFFENSE—**James Brooks**, *running back, Cincinnati*
Brooks rushed for a club-record 201 yards and scored on a 56-yard run to lead the Bengals past the Oilers 40-20. He also set up 2 more touchdowns on 45- and 40-yard runs.

Dave Cross

James Brooks

AFC DEFENSE—**Darryl Talley**, *linebacker, Buffalo*
Talley had 10 tackles (8 solo), 2 quarterback hurries, and a deflected pass in the Bills' 24-14 division-clinching victory over Miami.



Jimmy Cribb

Scott Case

NFC OFFENSE—**Jeff Hostetler**, *quarterback, New York Giants*
Hostetler, replacing the injured Phil Simms, passed for 190 yards and a touchdown and ran for another score as the Giants clinched a first-round playoff bye with a 24-21 win at Phoenix.

NFC DEFENSE—**Scott Case**, *safety, Atlanta*
Case made 8 tackles, including a sack, and returned an interception 36 yards for a touchdown to lead the Falcons past the Rams 20-13. The victory snapped Atlanta's seven-game losing streak.

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Week ★XXV★ 17 December 29.

For the New Orleans Saints, nothing ever has come easily...except, cynics would say, losing.

In the twenty-fourth year of their existence, the Saints earned their second NFL playoff berth...in the last seconds of the final game of the 1990 season.

New Orleans grabbed the last available playoff spot when Morten Andersen beat the Rams 20-17 with a 24-yard field goal. Andersen's kick came with two seconds remaining, after he had a 29-yard kick blocked by nose tackle Alvin Wright with eight seconds left. But Wright had jumped offsides, which gave Andersen a second chance.

"It's a little ironic," Saints head coach Jim Mora said. "The last two years we've been 10-6 and 9-7 and haven't gone to the playoffs. This year, we finally make .500 on the last day [and go]."

The Saints moved 49 yards (counting the penalty) behind Steve Walsh to set up Andersen for the winning kick. Walsh's 34-yard pass to Eric Martin was the big play. The Rams had tied the score at 17-17 on Jim Everett's 1-yard scoring pass to Robert Delpino with 1:19 left.

The Saints' victory eliminated Walsh's old team, Dallas, which lost its last two games after quarterback Troy Aikman was injured.

Only three playoff spots were available on the last weekend—two in the AFC and one in the NFC. Cincinnati and Houston made it from the AFC, the Bengals winning the AFC Central title (although their 9-7 record was matched by Houston and Pittsburgh) because of a better record in the division.

One other division title was decided, as the Los Angeles Raiders held off second-place Kansas City in the AFC West with a 17-12 comeback victory over the Chargers. The Chiefs had kept up the pressure by stopping the Bears 21-10 the day before. If the two teams had finished in a tie, Kansas City would have won the division.

Mike Moore

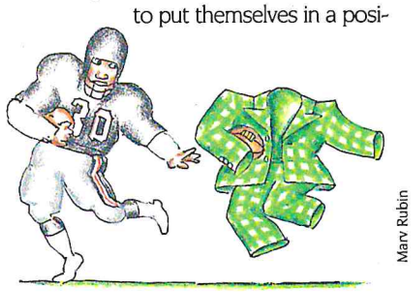
Randall Cunningham avoided the Cardinals' rush to throw 3 touchdown passes in the Eagles' 23-21 win.

Four teams—Houston, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and Seattle—were fighting for the last two AFC playoff berths. Houston's 34-14 rout of Pittsburgh on Sunday night eliminated the Steelers and Seahawks and put the Oilers and Bengals in.

With injured Warren Moon on the sideline, Houston backup quarterback Cody Carlson made his first start since 1988 and completed 22 of 29 passes, including 3 for touchdowns. Pittsburgh hadn't allowed a touchdown in its last three games, but Carlson and his teammates scored 4 of them, got 2 field goals, and racked up 28 first downs.

"It was a blur at first," Carlson said. "I'd never been in a game of this magnitude before. But after the first three completions, I settled down."

The Bengals outlasted the Browns 21-14 to put themselves in a posi-



Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Atlanta head coach **Jerry Glanville**, smiling after waiver-acquisition Mike Rozier rushed for 155 yards in a victory over Dallas, his third 100-yard game in five weeks:

"He's the best hundred-dollar investment I made since I bought a cheap suit in Texas."

Players of the Week

Ron Wyatt

Oilers' Cody Carlson

AFC OFFENSE—**Cody Carlson**, *quarterback, Houston*
Carlson, subbing for the injured Warren Moon, passed for 3 touchdowns to lead Houston to a 34-14 victory over Pittsburgh, clinching a wild-card playoff berth for the Oilers.

AFC DEFENSE— **Jacob Green**, *defensive end, Seattle*
Green had 3 sacks and 6 tackles as the fast-finishing Seahawks turned in a 30-10 victory over Detroit.

NFC OFFENSE— **Steve Young**, *quarterback, San Francisco*
Young replaced Joe Montana in the second half and rallied the 49ers to a 20-17 victory over Minnesota, their eighteenth straight win on the road. Young passed for 205 yards and 2 touchdowns, ran for 59 yards, and threw the game-winning 34-yard touchdown pass to John Taylor with 29 seconds to play.

NFC DEFENSE— **Wilber Marshall**, *linebacker, Washington*
Marshall had 7 tackles, including a sack, forced 2 fumbles, and recovered 1 to help the Redskins stop the Bills 29-14.

Dave Cross

Redskins' Wilber Marshall

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Week 17★

Pro Bowl Roster

American Football Conference

OFFENSE
Wide Receivers
Andre Reed, *Buffalo*
Anthony Miller, *San Diego*
Drew Hill, *Houston*
Ernest Givins, *Houston*
Tackles
Anthony Muñoz, *Cincinnati*
Bruce Armstrong, *New England*
Richmond Webb, *Miami*
Guards
Bruce Matthews, *Houston*
Mike Munchak, *Houston*
Steve Wisniewski, *L.A. Raiders*
Centers
Kent Hull, *Buffalo*
Don Mosebar, *L.A. Raiders*
Tight Ends
Rodney Holman, *Cincinnati*
Ferrell Edmunds, *Miami*
Quarterbacks
Warren Moon, *Houston*
Jim Kelly, *Buffalo*
Running Backs
Thurman Thomas, *Buffalo*
Marion Butts, *San Diego*
Bobby Humphrey, *Denver*
Bo Jackson, *L.A. Raiders*
DEFENSE
Ends
Bruce Smith, *Buffalo*
Greg Townsend, *L.A. Raiders*
Jeff Cross, *Miami*
Nose Tackles
Michael Dean Perry, *Cleveland*
Ray Childress, *Houston*
Outside Linebackers
Derrick Thomas, *Kansas City*
Leslie O'Neal, *San Diego*
Cornelius Bennett, *Buffalo*
Inside Linebackers
John Offerdahl, *Miami*
Shane Conlan, *Buffalo*
David Little, *Pittsburgh*
Cornerbacks
Rod Woodson, *Pittsburgh*
Albert Lewis, *Kansas City*
Kevin Ross, *Kansas City*
Safeties
Steve Atwater, *Denver*
David Fulcher, *Cincinnati*
Dennis Smith, *Denver*
SPECIALISTS
Punter
Rohn Stark, *Indianapolis*
Kicker
Nick Lowery, *Kansas City*
Kick Returner
Clarence Verdin, *Indianapolis*
Special Teamer
Steve Tasker, *Buffalo*

National Football Conference

OFFENSE
Wide Receivers
Jerry Rice, *San Francisco*
Andre Rison, *Atlanta*
Sterling Sharpe, *Green Bay*
Gary Clark, *Washington*
Tackles
Jim Lachey, *Washington*
Jackie Slater, *L.A. Rams*
Lomas Brown, *Detroit*
Guards
Randall McDaniel, *Minnesota*
Mark Bortz, *Chicago*
Guy McIntyre, *San Francisco*
Centers
Jay Hilgenberg, *Chicago*
Bart Oates, *N.Y. Giants*
Tight Ends
Keith Jackson, *Philadelphia*
Steve Jordan, *Minnesota*
Quarterbacks
Joe Montana, *San Francisco*
Randall Cunningham, *Philadelphia*
Running Backs
Barry Sanders, *Detroit*
Neal Anderson, *Chicago*
Earnest Byner, *Washington*
Johnny Johnson, *Phoenix*
DEFENSE
Ends
Reggie White, *Philadelphia*
Chris Doleman, *Minnesota*
Richard Dent, *Chicago*
Nose Tackles
Jerome Brown, *Philadelphia*
Jerry Ball, *Detroit*
Outside Linebackers
Charles Haley, *San Francisco*
Lawrence Taylor, *N.Y. Giants*
Pat Swilling, *New Orleans*
Inside Linebackers
Pepper Johnson, *N.Y. Giants*
Mike Singletary, *Chicago*
Vaughan Johnson, *New Orleans*
Cornerbacks
Darrell Green, *Washington*
Carl Lee, *Minnesota*
Wayne Haddix, *Tampa Bay*
Safeties
Joey Browner, *Minnesota*
Ronnie Lott, *San Francisco*
Mark Carrier, *Chicago*
SPECIALISTS
Punter
Sean Landeta, *N.Y. Giants*
Kicker
Morten Andersen, *New Orleans*
Kick Returner
Mel Gray, *Detroit*
Special Teamer
Reyna Thompson, *N.Y. Giants*

Players are listed by position and in order of total number of votes received.

Standings

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	13	3	0
Miami	12	4	0
Indianapolis	7	9	0
N.Y. Jets	6	10	0
New England	1	15	0
AFC Central			
Cincinnati	9	7	0
Houston	9	7	0
Pittsburgh	9	7	0
Cleveland	3	13	0
AFC West			
L.A. Raiders	12	4	0
Kansas City	11	5	0
Seattle	9	7	0
San Diego	6	10	0
Denver	5	11	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	13	3	0
Philadelphia	10	6	0
Washington	10	6	0
Dallas	7	9	0
Phoenix	5	11	0
NFC Central			
Chicago	11	5	0
Tampa Bay	6	10	0
Detroit	6	10	0
Green Bay	6	10	0
Minnesota	6	10	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	14	2	0
New Orleans	8	8	0
L.A. Rams	5	11	0
Atlanta	5	11	0

Scores

AFC
Cincinnati 21, Cleveland 14
Houston 34, Pittsburgh 14
L.A. Raiders 17, San Diego 12
Miami 23, Indianapolis 17
NFC
Atlanta 26, Dallas 7
New Orleans 20, L.A. Rams 17
Philadelphia 23, Phoenix 21
San Francisco 20, Minnesota 17
Interconference
Denver 22, Green Bay 13
Kansas City 21, Chicago 10
N.Y. Giants 13, New England 10
N.Y. Jets 16, Tampa Bay 14
Seattle 30, Detroit 10
Washington 29, Buffalo 14

tion to win the division title. The two teams were tied 14-14 in the fourth quarter when Boomer Esiason faked a handoff to Ickey Woods on a third-and-2 play, then lobbed a 48-yard touchdown pass to running back Eric Ball that won the game with 8:40 left.

Esiason went over 3,000 yards passing for the sixth successive season, and 32-year-old James Brooks ran for 84 yards to surpass 1,000 for the third time in his career.

The news was all bad for the Browns. They finished with the poorest record in their history, 3-13.

Like Cincinnati, the Raiders were in a battle with a heavy underdog, too. With Rod Bernstine running for 114 yards and rookie quarterback John Friesz throwing a touchdown pass in his first NFL regular-season game, the Chargers led Los Angeles 12-10 in the fourth quarter.

But Jay Schroeder directed an 80-yard drive to the winning touchdown, his 17-yard rollout pass to fullback Steve Smith with 3:53 left.

The victory gave the Raiders their first division title since 1985.

The Chiefs kept the pressure on the Raiders by dominating the Bears in Chicago. Kansas City finished with six wins in its last seven games, while the NFC-Central-champion Bears lost four of their last six.

"We're sitting on zero," Bears head coach Mike Ditka said. "We've got to put some gas in the tank."

The fuel-less Bears' only explosion was Johnny Bailey's club-record 95-yard punt return for a touchdown. Kansas City shrugged it off, however, to hold the ball for nearly 42 minutes behind Steve DeBerg, who completed 25 of 32 passes. Nick Lowery overcame a strained knee on his right (kicking) leg to make 5 field goals, giving him a Chiefs-record 21 consecutive field goals and 34 for the season.

The Eagles and Redskins tuned up for their NFC wild-card playoff game by beating Phoenix and Buffalo, respectively. The Eagles earned the right to host the wild-card game by jumping to a 23-7 lead, then hanging on to edge the Cardinals 23-21. Randall Cunningham threw 3 touchdown passes, 2 to Fred Barnett and 1 to Calvin Williams, and then retired to the sideline late in the third quarter.

The Redskins got 5 field goals from Chip Lohmiller and snapped Buffalo's four-game winning streak with a 29-14 victory in Washington. The Bills, who already had clinched the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, rested 17 starters for all or part of the second half.

"When you know what your playoff situation is, you walk on eggs a little bit," Buffalo head coach Marv Levy said.

While Buffalo walked on eggs, Miami stopped the Colts 23-17 to clinch the home-field advantage for its wild-card game. Sammie Smith ran for 108 yards and caught a 53-yard scoring pass from Dan Marino.

On defense, end Jeff Cross pressured the Colts' Jeff George into grounding a pass in the end zone for a safety and slapped the ball out of George's hands on another play, with nose tackle Brian Sochia picking up the fumble and returning it 13 yards for a touchdown.

Seattle finished with a rush, winning 9 of its last 13 games and barely missing a wild-card playoff berth. The Seahawks pounded Detroit 30-10 as Derrick Fenner ran for 75 yards and 2 touchdowns, and safety Eugene Robinson returned a fumble 16 yards for another score. Detroit's Barry Sanders was held to 23 yards on 9 carries, but he finished the season with 1,304 yards to lead the NFL in rushing. He was the first Lions' rusher to lead the league since Byron (Whizzer) White, now a U.S. Supreme Court justice, in 1940.

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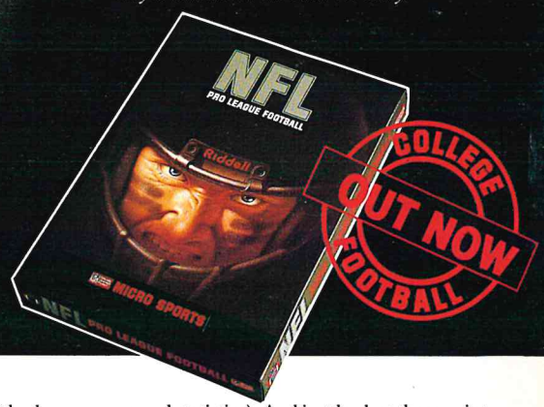

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Week 18 ★XXV★ January 5

AFC Playoffs

On Friday, Don Shula turned 61 years old. On Saturday, he celebrated.

"What a great feeling," the Dolphins' head coach said after Miami had rallied to edge Kansas City 17-16 in the most dramatic game of the playoffs' first week. "We're going to be playing again."

To earn the right to play again, the Dolphins had to rally for two touchdowns in the fourth quarter behind Dan Marino, then survive a 52-yard field-goal attempt by the Chiefs' Nick Lowery with 56 seconds left.

The try—by a kicker who had made 24 in a row—was down the middle, but it fell just short of the crossbar.

"I hit it well," Lowery said. "But what was it? Two feet short."

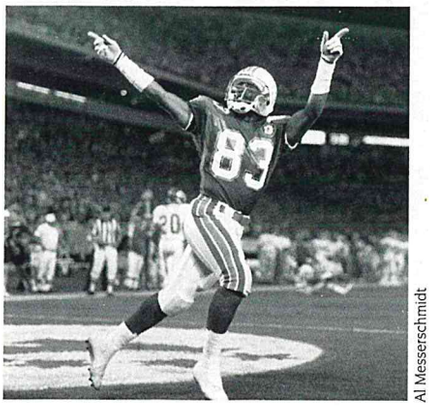
In Cincinnati, the Oilers were 27 points short in the other AFC wild-card game, as the Bengals jumped to a 20-0 halftime lead, stretched it to 34-0 in the third quarter, and eliminated Houston and its Run-and-Shoot offense 41-14.

"We had one of those great days," Bengals head coach Sam Wyche said. "Everything worked. Every now and then, you have one."

The Bengals have had a lot of those days against Houston in Cincinnati. It was their fourth successive win over the Oilers at home—by an average score of 47-16—and tenth in the last 11 games.

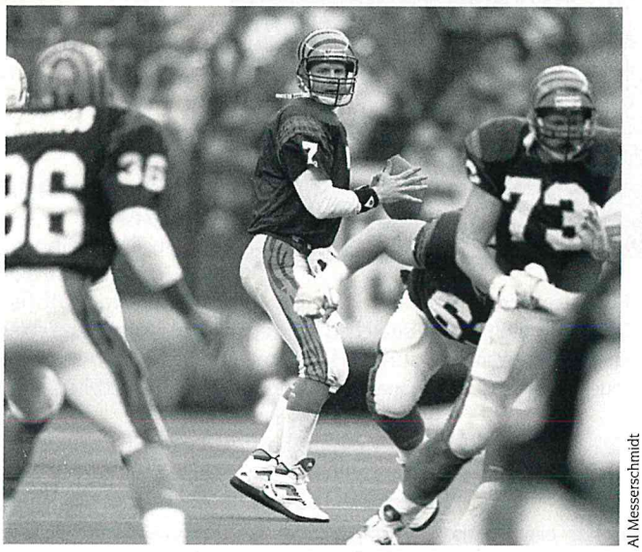
Dolphins 17, Chiefs 16

The Chiefs had won six of their last seven games, and they led Miami 16-3, when Marino, aided by the running of Sammie Smith (82 yards for the day), directed 66- and 85-yard touchdown drives to win the game.



Al Messerschmidt

Miami's Mark Clayton celebrated his winning touchdown catch.



Al Messerschmidt

Boomer Esiason hit 14 of 20 passes as the Bengals routed Houston.

Marino ended the first drive with a 1-yard touchdown pass to fullback Tony Paige and the second with a perfectly thrown 12-yard pass to Mark Clayton. The Dolphins' quarterback completed his last 10 passes, including all 8 in the fourth quarter.

He threw the winning pass with 3:28 left, as Pro Bowl cornerback Albert Lewis went for an interception and narrowly missed the ball.

"I knew when Clayton ran the out I was going to go for the (interception) because of our inability to stop them and the time left in the game," Lewis said. "I just missed the ball. It was thrown a lot lower than I anticipated."

"I knew he was going to go for the interception on that pattern," Marino said. "I threw it outside and low, just like I wanted to."

After Miami took its 17-16 lead, Steve DeBerg drove the Chiefs to the Dolphins' 27. From there, Christian Okoye (83 yards on 13 carries) ran 12 yards on first down to the Miami 15, within easy field-goal range.

But Chiefs rookie guard David Szott was caught holding, and the penalty nullified the run and pushed Kansas City back to the 37. The Chiefs gained only 3 more yards, leaving Lowery with his 52-yard attempt.

Distance wasn't a problem for Pete Stoyanovich when he hammered a playoff-record 58-yard field goal for Miami in the second quarter.

But the Chiefs got three field goals from Lowery, and DeBerg's 26-yard touchdown pass to Stephone Paige to take their 16-3 lead before Marino started his comeback.

Bengals 41, Oilers 14

For Cincinnati, it was like running downhill.

In rainy, 36-degree weather, the Bengals drove 70 yards to a touchdown—Ickey Woods's 1-yard run—on the game's first series and never looked back.

At the half, when they led 20-0, they also led in yards 222-36, plays 43-13, and first downs 15-1. Then they scored two more touchdowns in the first four minutes of the second half, and it was 34-0 before Houston had its second first down.

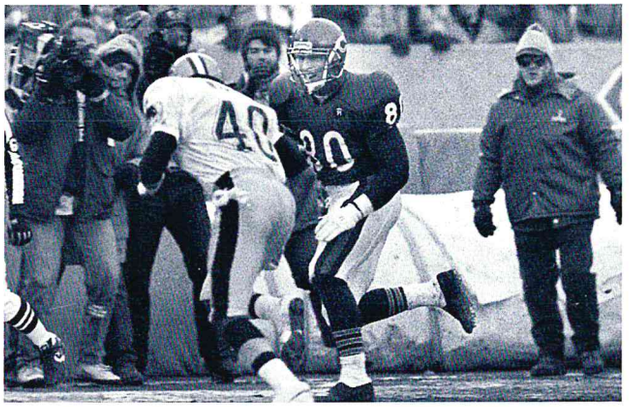
"It almost made me nervous how sure I was before the game that we were going to win it," Wyche said. "It's rare you have that kind of feeling and then watch it unfold."

It unfolded on offense behind Boomer Esiason, who hit 14 of 20 passes for 2 touchdowns (2 yards to running back Harold Green and 9 to tight end Eric Kattus). Boomer also was the game's leading rusher, running 5 times for 57 yards, including a 10-yard sprint around left end for a touchdown.

Cincinnati even survived the loss of 1,000-yard rusher James Brooks, who suffered a dislocated thumb in the first quarter.

While the Bengals controlled the ball on offense, their defense thoroughly frustrated Houston backup quarterback Cody Carlson, who was replacing the injured Warren Moon.

Safety David Fulcher returned an interception 43 yards to the Houston 16 to set up the touchdown that made it 17-0, and linebacker James Francis recovered Carlson's fumbled snap at the Houston 10 to lead to the touchdown that made it 34-0.



John H. Reid III

Bears tight end James Thornton (80) caught an 18-yard touchdown pass.

"We just didn't execute, and I'm the quarterback, and it's my fault," Carlson said. "We started off so slow, and it just snowballed."

NFC Playoffs

It was the biggest play—or non-play—of the game.

Washington was leading 7-6 late in the second quarter when Earnest Byner caught a short pass from Mark Rypien and ran 11 yards to the Eagles' 6-yard line. There, rookie cornerback Ben Smith slammed him down, jarred the ball loose, picked it up, and weaved his way 88 yards for an apparent touchdown.

For a moment, it appeared Philadelphia had a 13-7 lead. Instead, Washington kept the ball and kicked a field goal for a 10-6 halftime lead. Instant replay official George Sladky had reversed the on-field call, ruling Byner was down when he fumbled—and in the NFL the ground can't cause a fumble.

"I was down," Byner said. "You never know what they're going to call, but I *was* down."

Later that afternoon, so were the Eagles, down 20-6 and eliminated from the NFC playoffs by the fast-finishing Redskins who got revenge for Philadelphia's 28-14 victory in November.

The game had further repercussions. Eagles head coach Buddy Ryan, coaching the final game of his five-year contract, had been eliminated from the playoffs in the first game for the third successive year, and the next Tuesday he was fired.

It was cold in Chicago on Sunday (a windchill factor of 4 degrees), and, appropriately enough, the Bears put the Saints in a deep freeze, holding them to 193 yards and 11 first downs and winning 16-6.

Neal Anderson accounted for almost half of Chicago's offense, running for 102 yards, catching 4 passes for 42, and throwing a 22-yard pass to Ron Morris that set up a field goal.

"This is a playoff game," Anderson said. "I love it when the ball is coming to me."

Redskins 20, Eagles 6

In Philadelphia, Redskins head coach Joe Gibbs stretched his playoff record to a remarkable 12-3 as his team rallied from a 6-0 second-quarter deficit to win. It was the Redskins' fifth victory in their last six games.

"Coach Gibbs told us that he had never worked harder on a game plan, that all the coaches had never worked harder," Redskins linebacker Monte Coleman said. "They really had done their homework."

The Redskins got two touchdown passes from Mark Rypien—16 yards to Art Monk and 3 yards to Gary Clark. Chip Lohmiller added 2 field goals.

On defense, Washington sacked Randall Cunningham 5 times, including 2 by tackle Tim Johnson and 1½ by end Charles Mann, and forced 3 turnovers.

The Eagles took their 6-0 lead on a pair of Roger Ruzek field goals, set up by Cunningham's 66-yard completion to tight end Keith Jackson and safety Wes Hopkins's fumble recovery. But their offense was stifled after that.

"What wins in the playoffs," Gibbs said, "is defense."

Bears 16, Saints 6

During the regular season, the Bears finished second in the NFL in time of possession, and they were selfish with the ball again in the playoffs. With Anderson running for 102 yards, and Brad Muster adding 71 on 12 carries, Chicago kept the ball for 37 minutes 31 seconds.

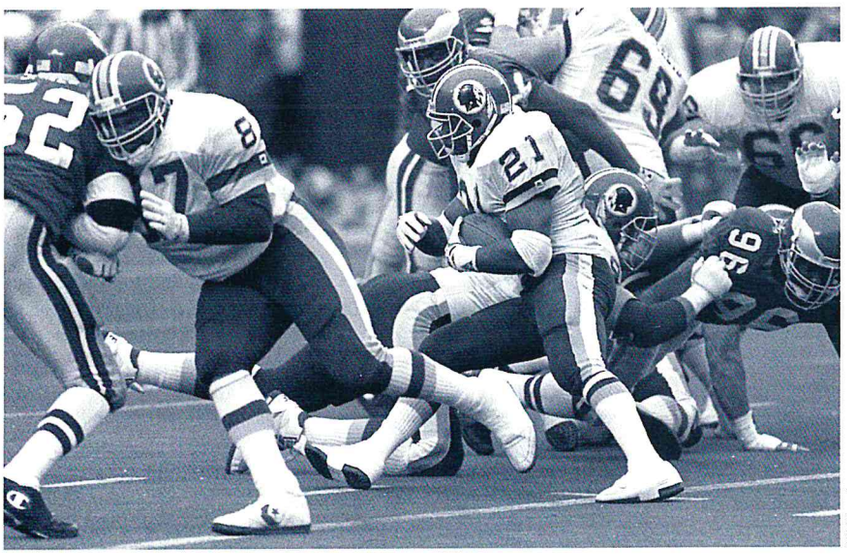
"Anderson is a great football player who plays hard, and we have to give him a lot of credit," head coach Mike Ditka said. "The same with Muster. The main thing is to get the ball in their hands."

The ball also was in quarterback Mike Tomczak's hands, as he threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to tight end James Thornton and lobbed a perfect 38-yard strike to Dennis Gentry late in the fourth quarter, with the score 13-6, to set up Kevin Butler's clinching field goal with 2:47 left.

The Saints were hurt by a critical third-quarter penalty. They were trailing 10-3, when defensive end Renaldo Turnbull blocked a field-goal attempt, and rookie cornerback Vince Buck returned it 61 yards for the apparent tying touchdown.

But cornerback Robert Massey was cited for lining up offside, nullifying the score and giving the Bears a first down. They drove to a field goal and a 13-3 lead.

"I don't believe he was offside," Buck said. "I think it was really a bad call. We needed to do something to make up for it, and we never did."



Bill Wood

Earnest Byner (21) ran for 49 yards and caught 7 passes for Washington.

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Week ★XXV★ 19 January 12

AFC Playoffs

The field looked like a scene from a Christmas card as snow fell through most of the game and covered the lines. The scoreboard looked like a scene from the early AFL.

"It was the strangest combination of factors," Buffalo head coach Marv Levy said, after his Bills had skied into the AFC Championship Game with a 44-34 victory over Miami. "It really hindered the defenses more than the offenses."

It also was the highest scoring non-overtime playoff game ever as the two teams combined for 78 points and 923 total yards (493 by Buffalo, 430 by Miami).

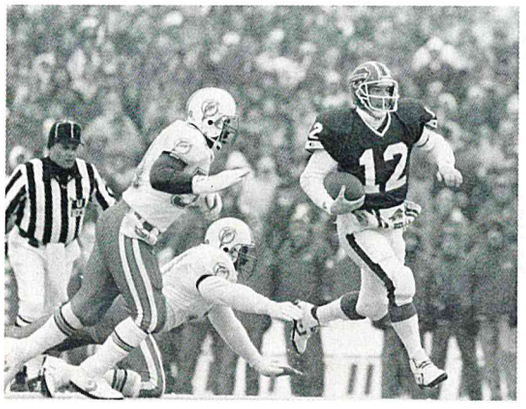
Shrugging off a knee injury that had sidelined him since December 15, Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly led the Bills to touchdowns on their first five possessions and eight of their first 10 to outscore Dan Marino, who kept bringing the Dolphins back. The victory ran the Bills' record at home this season to 9-0.

The weather and the game were exactly opposite in Los Angeles where the Raiders joined the Bills in the title game by turning back injury-riddled Cincinnati 20-10 on a day when the temperature hovered around 80 degrees. The victory, the Raiders' sixth in a row, was watched by a crowd of 92,045, largest in the NFL this year.

While Jay Schroeder threw 2 touchdown passes, the Raiders rushed for 235 yards, including 140 by Marcus Allen. Bo Jackson dashed for 77 on 6 carries, but left the game on the first series of the third quarter with a strained hip.

"Bo and I always knew that if one of us got hurt, the other would have to pick up the slack," Allen said. "Today, it was my turn."

Out since December 15 with a knee injury, Buffalo's Jim Kelly ran for 37 yards, passed for 3 touchdowns.



Craig Melvin

Bills 44, Dolphins 34

In Buffalo, Miami cornerback J.B. Brown summed up the frustration of the defensive players on playing in the snow.

"We couldn't get a grip on how to get better footing," he said. "The offense always has an advantage in that situation. It was the worst footing I've ever played on."

Kelly agreed. "The defensive backs couldn't play real tight," he said, "because one slip could mean six points."

There were a lot of six-point plays anyway. Kelly, who led the NFL in passing, threw for 339 yards and 3 touchdowns and scrambled on his bad knee 5 times for 37 more yards. He fired 40- and 26-yard scoring passes to Andre Reed and a 13-yarder to James Lofton, who caught 7 passes for 149 yards. The Bills used a no-huddle offense on all but their last two series.

Marino passed for 323 yards and 3 touchdowns of his own, and even ran 2 yards for a score. Marino's scoring passes went 64 yards to Mark Duper, 2 yards to guard Roy Foster, who lined up as a tight end on the play, and 8 yards to Tony Martin.

Even the runners did well. Buffalo's Thurman Thomas rushed for 117 yards and 2 touchdowns. Miami's Sammie Smith ran for 99 yards.

"We just came up short," Marino said. "You have to give the Bills credit. They're a very good football team."

Paul Spinelli

Marcus Allen ran for 140 yards to lead the Raiders past Cincinnati.

Raiders 20, Bengals 10

The Bengals played without injured left tackle Anthony Muñoz and injured left guard Bruce Reimers, while 1,000-yard rusher James Brooks played less than usual with a dislocated left thumb and the flu.

"On top of our injuries, we had [quarterback] Boomer Esiason come down with the flu," Bengals head coach Sam Wyche said. "It was just unusual circumstances."

Still, the Bengals kept the game close with tenacious defense, a conservative game plan—Esiason threw only 15 passes—and the running of Ickey Woods, who hammered for 73 yards on 11 carries.

Trailing 10-3 in the fourth quarter, Cincinnati drove 71 yards on 11 runs and 2 passes to Esiason's scrambling 8-yard touchdown pass to running back Stanford Jennings that tied the score at 10-10 with 11:49 left.

But the Raiders retaliated immediately with an 80-yard touchdown drive, which included Schroeder's 26-yard pass to Tim Brown on third-and-20, and Schroeder's 41-yard touchdown pass to tight end Ethan Horton, who made a fingertip catch along the sideline for a 17-10 lead.

Defensive end Greg Townsend's third sack of Esiason ended the next Bengals series, and the Raiders took over and ate up 5:13 on the clock marching to Jeff Jaeger's clinching 25-yard field goal with 19 seconds left.

"We said all year that the road to the Super Bowl goes through Buffalo," Raiders head coach Art Shell said. "We're just happy to be taking that path."

NFC Playoffs

Two people we shouldn't hear from for a while: (1) the guy who started folks writing and talking about how the San Francisco 49ers were a "finesse" team and (2) whoever invented the term "smash-mouth football," as in "The New York Giants-Chicago Bears playoff game will be smash-mouth football at its best."

Al Messerschmidt

San Francisco nose tackle Michael Carter scored on an interception.

On Saturday, finesse did play a part in San Francisco's victory over Washington. (Joe Montana to Jerry Rice, remember?) But don't try to find it in Harry Sydney's halfback pass to tight end Brent Jones, a goofy floater that set up the 49ers' second touchdown.

On Sunday, the Giants did smash the Bears in the mouth, it's true. But the Bears failed to hold up their end of the deal.

The NFC's top-ranked defense, led by linebacker Lawrence Taylor, nose tackle Erik Howard, and cornerback Everson Walls, kept Chicago without a rushing first down. The Giants owned the ground game (194 yards to 27) and almost two-thirds of the game clock.

So what did the NFC's nineteenth weekend give us? Only an upcoming second look at the NFL's best matchup of 1990—the 49ers against the Giants in the NFC Championship Game.

49ers 28, Redskins 10

The 49ers, team of the '80s, waited 18 minutes and 52 seconds before filing their claim on the '90s.

Then, with the same microsurgical precision that had marked this team throughout the previous decade, 49ers quarterback Joe Montana hit wide receiver Jerry Rice over the middle with a 10-yard touchdown pass, gently depressing the delete key on the Washington Redskins' Super Bowl daydream.

San Francisco led 14-10 en route to a 28-10 victory.

The Redskins' 10 first-quarter points looked threatening enough. But quarterback Mark Rypien later found that the clear passing lanes—which opened the way to a 31-yard touchdown to wide receiver Art Monk only 5:48 into the game, as well as completions of 18 and 13 yards to Ricky Sanders that led to Chip Lohmiller's 44-yard field goal with 36 seconds left in the first quarter—were occupied by 49ers when he needed them most.

Three times in the second half, Rypien threw into the 49ers' end zone. All three times, awful things happened.

With the 49ers leading 21-10, thanks to Montana's 8-yard touchdown pass to Mike Sherrard midway through the second quarter, Rypien's post-intermission nightmare began.

Operating from the San Francisco 7, he underthrew Monk in the deep left corner of the end zone and was picked off by 49ers safety Johnny Jackson.

Rypien's second bid to pull the Redskins to within four points resulted in a miscommunication with Sanders. Cornerback Darryl Pollard intercepted without a Redskin near him.

Three plays later, the Redskins intercepted a pass by Montana and drove to the 49ers' 5. On fourth-and-goal, Gary Clark got a step on 49ers cornerback Eric Davis, but Davis, fending off Clark's facemask with his right hand, was able to deflect the ball with his left. Clark and the Redskins protested in vain.

On the Redskins' next possession, Rypien was hit and threw weakly. San Francisco defensive end Charles Haley tipped the ball into the hands of nose tackle Michael Carter, who rumbled a comical 61 yards for the 49ers' fourth touchdown.

San Francisco coach George Seifert, asked about Carter's score, said afterward, "One of the best lines I heard on the sideline was, 'How's that for running time off the clock?'"

Giants 31, Bears 3

New York Giants backup quarterback Jeff Hostetler answered two weeks' worth of speculation about his ability to respond under playoff pressure by converting three fourth-down situations, each time preserving a touchdown drive, each time numbing the Chicago Bears' will just a little more, each time narrowing the imagined gulf between his talent and that of injured regular Phil Simms.

"I was hearing that stuff all week and it was getting old as the week went on," Hostetler said. "It was frustrating."

Hostetler's three steps to not hearing any more of that stuff:

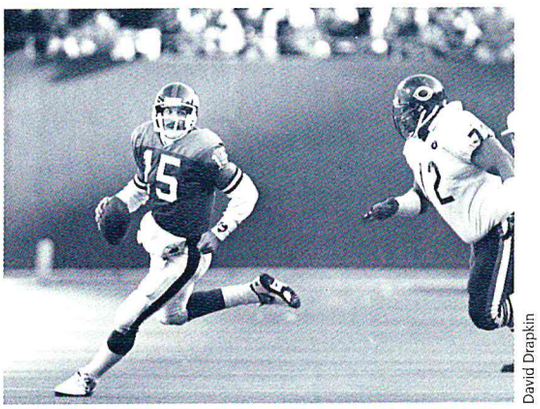
First quarter: The Giants led 3-0, thanks to Matt Bahr's 46-yard field goal, set up by Mark Collins's interception return to the Bears' 34. Hostetler, faced with fourth and one at the Bears' 27, completed a 6-yard pass to seldom-used tight end Bob Mrosko. On the next play, Hostetler hit wide receiver Stephen Baker with a 21-yard laser beam, and the Giants led, 10-0.

Second quarter: The Giants' defense stopped Bears fullback Brad Muster on fourth and goal at the 1. Midway through the quarter, Bears kicker Kevin Butler hit a 33-yard field goal to make it 10-3. Then came Hostetler's signature drive of the afternoon, highlighted by his 10-yard scramble on fourth and 1 from the Chicago 33. Running back Dave Meggett's 10-yard burst on a draw play put Hostetler in position for a 5-yard touchdown pass to tight end Howard Cross and a 17-3 lead.

Third quarter: The Hostetler Festival continued with a 49-yard drive that included his 9-yard scramble on fourth-and-6 at the Bears' 35 and ended with his 3-yard touchdown run, a neat job of cutting back on a rollout to the right side for a 24-3 lead.

"Jeff played like he was in a fantasy," Giants wide receiver Stephen Baker said. "It was a dream come true. It was extraordinary the plays he made. Scrambling, throwing the ball, he was making plays out of what wasn't there."

Jeff Hostetler ran and passed the Giants to victory over the Bears. With 43 yards, he outrushed Chicago, which ran for only 27 yards as a team.



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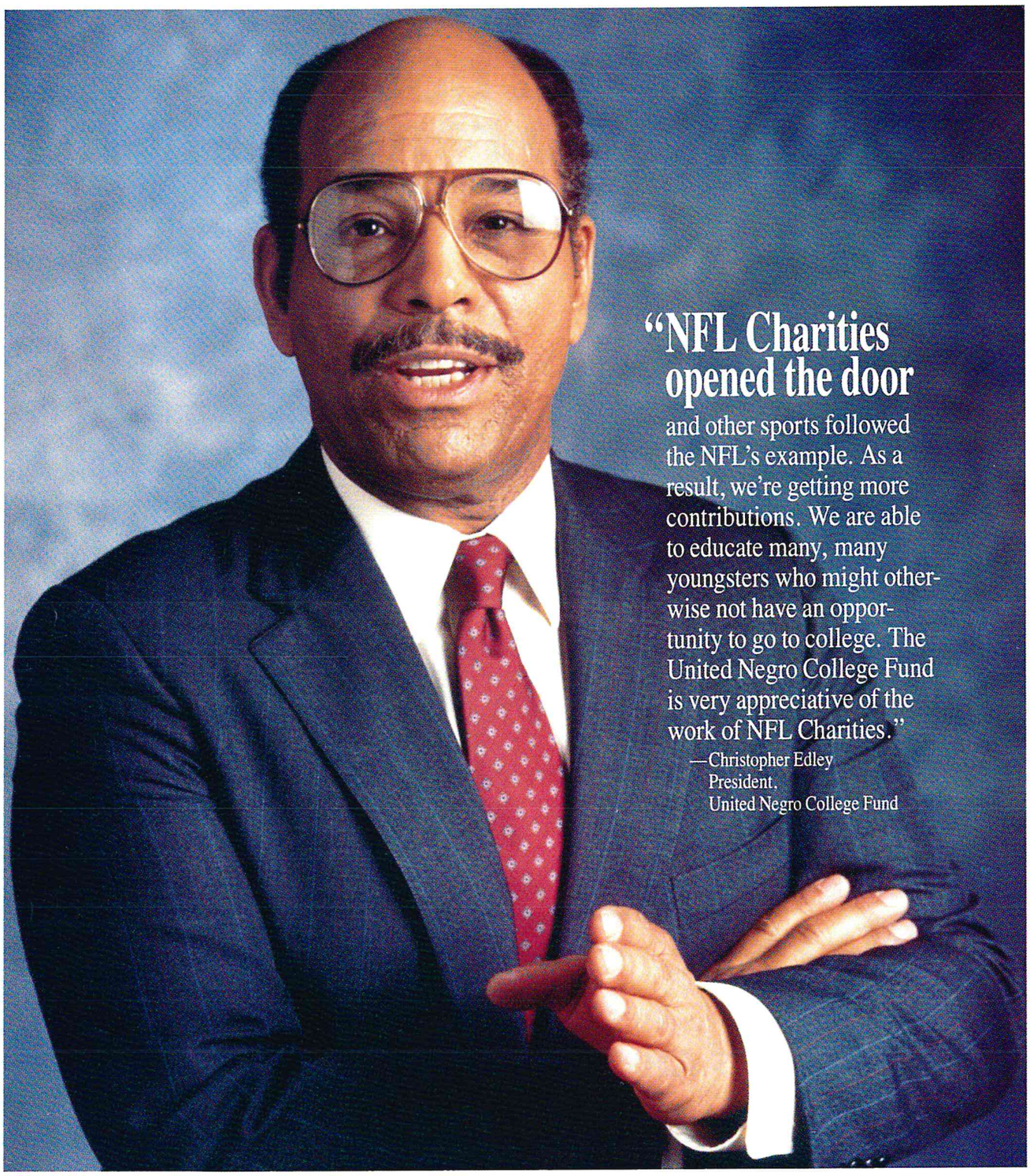
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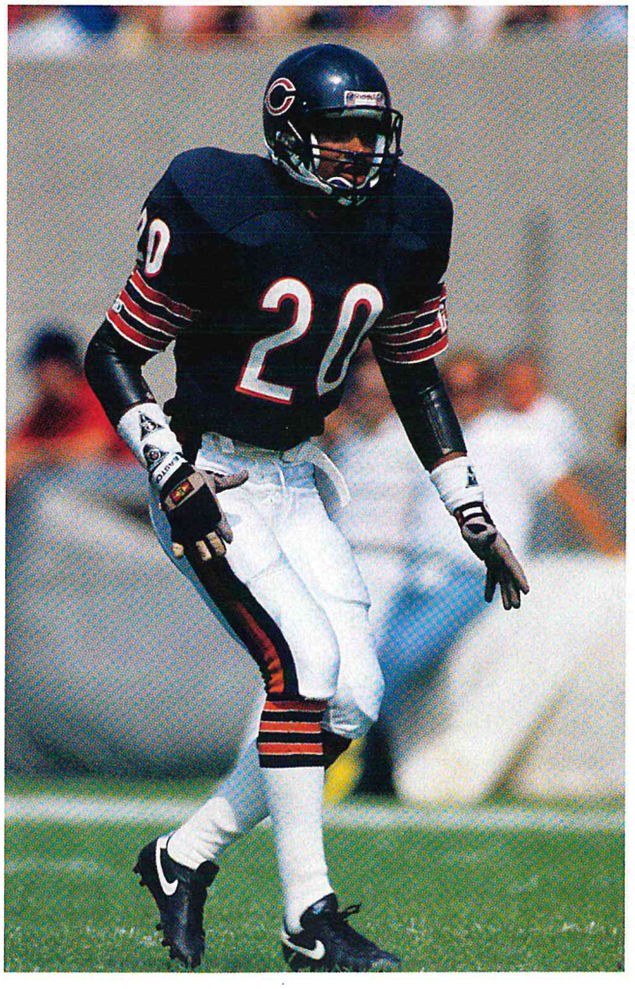

Al Messerschmidt

RUSHING
Sophomore jinx? Barry Sanders (above) never heard of it. The Detroit running back's second season was just as brilliant as his first. Sanders ran for 1,304 yards and 13 touchdowns to win his first NFL rushing title in 1990. He had a 5.1-yard average.

INTERCEPTIONS
Safety Mark Carrier (left) exceeded the highest hopes of the Chicago Bears, who drafted him in the first round. The rookie from USC started all 16 games at free safety and finished with 10 interceptions, most in the NFL in 1990 and most in a single season in Bears history.

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1990 STATISTICAL LEADERS

Peter Brouillet

PASSING
While leading Buffalo to the AFC's best record in 1990, Jim Kelly (above) also won his first NFL passing title (the first ever for a Bills quarterback). Kelly's 101.2 passer rating reflected 24 touchdowns, only 9 interceptions, and an NFL-best completion percentage of 63.3.

Michael Zagaris

RECEIVING
San Francisco's Jerry Rice (right) was the NFL's undisputed receiving champ in 1990. Nobody came close to Rice's totals for catches (100), receiving yards (1,502), or touchdown receptions (13).

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Individual Statistics

AFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	346	219	63.3	2829	8.18	24	6.9	71	9	2.6	101.2
Warren Moon, Houston	584	362	62.0	4689	8.03	33	5.7	t87	13	2.2	96.8
Steve DeBerg, Kansas City	444	258	58.1	3444	7.76	23	5.2	t90	4	0.9	96.3
Jay Schroeder, L.A. Raiders	334	182	54.5	2849	8.53	19	5.7	t68	9	2.7	90.8
Dan Marino, Miami	531	306	57.6	3563	6.71	21	4.0	t69	11	2.1	82.6
Bubby Brister, Pittsburgh	387	223	57.6	2725	7.04	20	5.2	90	14	3.6	81.6
John Elway, Denver	502	294	58.6	3526	7.02	15	3.0	66	14	2.8	78.5
Ken O'Brien, N.Y. Jets	411	226	55.0	2855	6.95	13	3.2	t69	10	2.4	77.3
Boomer Esiason, Cincinnati	402	224	55.7	3031	7.54	24	6.0	53	22	5.5	77.0
Jeff George, Indianapolis	334	181	54.2	2152	6.44	16	4.8	75	13	3.9	73.8
Dave Krieg, Seattle	448	265	59.2	3194	7.13	15	3.3	t63	20	4.5	73.6
Billy Joe Tolliver, San Diego	410	216	52.7	2574	6.28	16	3.9	t45	16	3.9	68.9

NFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Long	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants	311	184	59.2	2284	7.34	15	4.8	t80	4	1.3	92.7
Randall Cunningham, Philadelphia	465	271	58.3	3466	7.45	30	6.5	t95	13	2.8	91.6
Joe Montana, San Francisco	520	321	61.7	3944	7.58	26	5.0	t78	16	3.1	89.0
Jim Harbaugh, Chicago	312	180	57.7	2178	6.98	10	3.2	t80	6	1.9	81.9
Rodney Peete, Detroit	271	142	52.4	1974	7.28	13	4.8	t68	8	3.0	79.8
Jim Everett, L.A. Rams	554	307	55.4	3989	7.20	23	4.2	t55	17	3.1	79.3
Chris Miller, Atlanta	388	222	57.2	2735	7.05	17	4.4	t75	14	3.6	78.7
Mark Rypien, Washington	304	166	54.6	2070	6.81	16	5.3	t53	11	3.6	78.4
Vinny Testaverde, Tampa Bay	365	203	55.6	2818	7.72	17	4.7	t89	18	4.9	75.6
Don Majkowski, Green Bay	264	150	56.8	1925	7.29	10	3.8	t76	12	4.5	73.5
Timm Rosenbach, Phoenix	437	237	54.2	3098	7.09	16	3.7	t68	17	3.9	72.8
Rich Gannon, Minnesota	349	182	52.1	2278	6.53	16	4.6	t78	16	4.6	68.9

AFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	271	1297	4.8	t80	11
Marion Butts, San Diego	265	1225	4.6	52	8
Bobby Humphrey, Denver	288	1202	4.2	t37	7
Barry Word, Kansas City	204	1015	5.0	t53	4
James Brooks, Cincinnati	195	1004	5.1	t56	5
Derrick Fenner, Seattle	215	859	4.0	36	14
Sammie Smith, Miami	226	831	3.7	33	8
John Stephens, New England	212	808	3.8	26	2
Christian Okoye, Kansas City	245	805	3.3	32	7
Merril Hoge, Pittsburgh	203	772	3.8	t41	7

NFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Barry Sanders, Detroit	255	1304	5.1	t45	13
Earnest Byner, Washington	297	1219	4.1	22	6
Neal Anderson, Chicago	260	1078	4.1	52	10
Randall Cunningham, Phila.	118	942	8.0	t52	5
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	241	937	3.9	t48	11
Johnny Johnson, Phoenix	234	926	4.0	41	5
Cleveland Gary, L.A. Rams	204	808	4.0	48	14
Ottis Anderson, N.Y. Giants	225	784	3.5	28	11
Herschel Walker, Minnesota	184	770	4.2	t58	5
Mike Rozier, Hou.-Atl.	163	717	4.4	67	3

AFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Derrick Fenner, Seattle	15	14	1	0	90
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	13	12	1	0	78
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	13	11	2	0	78
Lorenzo White, Houston	12	8	4	0	72
Merril Hoge, Pittsburgh	10	7	3	0	60
James Brooks, Cincinnati	9	5	4	0	54
Eddie Brown, Cincinnati	9	0	9	0	54
Ernest Givins, Houston	9	0	9	0	54
Sammie Smith, Miami	9	8	1	0	54
Marion Butts, San Diego	8	8	0	0	48
Haywood Jeffires, Houston	8	0	8	0	48
Andre Reed, Buffalo	8	0	8	0	48

NFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Barry Sanders, Detroit	16	13	3	0	96
Cleveland Gary, L.A. Rams	15	14	1	0	90
Neal Anderson, Chicago	13	10	3	0	78
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	13	0	13	0	78
Ottis Anderson, N.Y. Giants	11	11	0	0	66
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	11	11	0	0	66
Andre Rison, Atlanta	10	0	10	0	60
Herschel Walker, Minnesota	9	5	4	0	54
Calvin Williams, Philadelphia	9	0	9	0	54
Fred Barnett, Philadelphia	8	0	8	0	48
Anthony Carter, Minnesota	8	0	8	0	48
Robert Clark, Detroit	8	0	8	0	48
Gary Clark, Washington	8	0	8	0	48

AFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Long	Pts
Nick Lowery, Kansas City	37/38	34/37	48	139
Scott Norwood, Buffalo	50/52	20/29	48	110
David Treadwell, Denver	34/36	25/34	49	109
Norm Johnson, Seattle	33/34	23/32	51	102
Pat Leahy, N.Y. Jets	32/32	23/26	47	101
Pete Stoyanovich, Miami	37/37	21/25	53	100
Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh	32/32	20/25	48	92
Jim Breech, Cincinnati	41/44	17/21	46	92
Jeff Jaeger, L.A. Raiders	40/42	15/20	50	85
John Carney, San Diego	27/28	19/21	43	84

NFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Long	Pts
Chip Lohmiller, Washington	41/41	30/40	56	131
Kevin Butler, Chicago	36/37	26/37	52	114
Mike Cofer, San Francisco	39/39	24/36	56	111
Roger Ruzek, Philadelphia	45/48	21/29	53	108
Greg Davis, Atlanta	40/40	22/33	53	106
Chris Jacke, Green Bay	28/29	23/30	53	97
Steve Christie, Tampa Bay	27/27	23/27	54	96
Morten Andersen, New Orleans	29/29	21/27	52	92
Mike Lansford, L.A. Rams	42/43	15/24	46	87
Al Del Greco, Phoenix	31/31	17/27	50	82

AFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Haywood Jeffires, Houston	74	1048	14.2	t87	8
Drew Hill, Houston	74	1019	13.8	57	5
John L. Williams, Seattle	73	699	9.6	60	0
Ernest Givins, Houston	72	979	13.6	t80	9
Andre Reed, Buffalo	71	945	13.3	t56	8
Albert Bentley, Indianapolis	71	664	9.4	73	2
Curtis Duncan, Houston	66	785	11.9	t37	1
Stephone Paige, Kansas City	65	1021	15.7	t86	5
Anthony Miller, San Diego	63	933	14.8	t31	7
Bill Brooks, Indianapolis	62	823	13.3	75	5

NFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	100	1502	15.0	t64	13
Andre Rison, Atlanta	82	1208	14.7	t75	10
Keith Byars, Philadelphia	81	819	10.1	54	3
Henry Ellard, L.A. Rams	76	1294	17.0	t50	4
Gary Clark, Washington	75	1112	14.8	t53	8
Anthony Carter, Minnesota	70	1008	14.4	t56	8
Art Monk, Washington	68	770	11.3	44	5
Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay	67	1105	16.5	t76	6
Kelvin Martin, Dallas	64	732	11.4	45	0
Richard Johnson, Detroit	64	727	11.4	t44	6

AFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yards	Long	Avg
Mike Horan, Denver	58	2575	67	44.4
Rohn Stark, Indianapolis	71	3084	61	43.4
Lee Johnson, Cincinnati	64	2705	70	42.3
Reggie Roby, Miami	72	3022	62	42.0
Brian Hansen, New England	90	3752	69	41.7
Rick Donnelly, Seattle	67	2722	54	40.6
Joe Prokop, N.Y. Jets	59	2363	58	40.1
John Kidd, San Diego	61	2442	59	40.0
Rick Tuten, Buffalo	53	2107	55	39.8
Bryan Wagner, Cleveland	74	2879	65	38.9
Bryan Barker, Kansas City	64	2479	56	38.7

NFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yards	Long	Avg
Sean Landeta, N.Y. Giants	75	3306	67	44.1
Mike Saxon, Dallas	79	3413	62	43.2
Rich Camarillo, Phoenix	67	2865	63	42.8
Tom Barnhardt, New Orleans	70	2990	65	42.7
Harry Newsome, Minnesota	78	3299	61	42.3
Jeff Feagles, Philadelphia	72	3026	60	42.0
Scott Fulhage, Atlanta	70	2913	59	41.6
Jim Arnold, Detroit	63	2560	59	40.6
Maury Buford, Chicago	76	3073	59	40.4
Mark Royals, Tampa Bay	72	2902	62	40.3

AFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Clarence Verdin, Indianapolis	31	396	12.8	36	0
Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh	38	398	10.5	t52	1
Chris Warren, Seattle	28	269	9.6	39	0
Tim Brown, L.A. Raiders	34	295	8.7	39	0
Mitchell Price, Cincinnati	29	251	8.7	t66	1
Kevin Clark, Denver	21	159	7.6	32	0
Naz Worthen, Kansas City	25	180	7.2	37	0
Gerald McNeil, Houston	30	172	5.7	26	0

NFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Johnny Bailey, Chicago	36	399	11.1	t95	1
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants	43	467	10.9	t68	1
Mel Gray, Detroit	34	361	10.6	39	0
Jeff Query, Green Bay	32	308	9.6	25	0
Deion Sanders, Atlanta	29	250	8.6	t79	1
Vai Sikahema, Phoenix	36	306	8.5	20	0
Vince Buck, New Orleans	37	305	8.2	33	0
John Taylor, San Francisco	26	212	8.2	30	0
Willie Drewery, Tampa Bay	23	184	8.0	16	0
Rod Harris, Dallas-Phila.	28	214	7.6	30	0

AFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
Kevin Clark, Denver	20	505	25.3	75	0
Donnie Elder, San Diego	24	571	23.8	90	0
Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh	35	764	21.8	49	0
Chris Warren, Seattle	23	478	20.8	71	0
Sammy Martin, New England	25	515	20.6	38	0
Jamie Holland, L.A. Raiders	32	655	20.5	87	0
Gerald McNeil, Houston	27	551	20.4	64	0
Eric Metcalf, Cleveland	52	1052	20.2	t101	2
Stanford Jennings, Cincinnati	29	584	20.1	33	0
Don Smith, Buffalo	32	643	20.1	38	0

NFC LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS

	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants	21	492	23.4	58	0
Mel Gray, Detroit	41	939	22.9	65	0
Charles Wilson, Green Bay	35	798	22.8	36	0
Gaston Green, L.A. Rams	25	560	22.4	t99	1
Herschel Walker, Minnesota	44	966	22.0	64	0
Deion Sanders, Atlanta	39	851	21.8	50	0
James Dixon, Dallas	36	736	20.4	47	0
Gill Fenerty, New Orleans	28	572	20.4	58	0
Vai Sikahema, Phoenix	27	544	20.1	32	0
Robert Delpino, L.A. Rams	20	389	19.5	38	0

AFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	No	Yards	Long	TD
Richard Johnson, Houston	8	100	35	1
Gill Byrd, San Diego	7	63	24	0
Kevin Ross, Kansas City	5	97	40	0
Erik McMillan, N.Y. Jets	5	92	25	0
Louis Oliver, Miami	5	87	35	0
Jarvis Williams, Miami	5	82	t42	1
Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh	5	67	34	0

NFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	No	Yards	Long	TD
Mark Carrier, Chicago	10	39	14	0
Wayne Haddix, Tampa Bay	7	231	t65	3
Joey Browner, Minnesota	7	103	31	1
Dave Waymer, San Francisco	7	64	24	0
Martin Mayhew, Washington	7	20	15	0
Everson Walls, N.Y. Giants	6	80	40	1
Lemuel Stinson, Chicago	6	66	30	0

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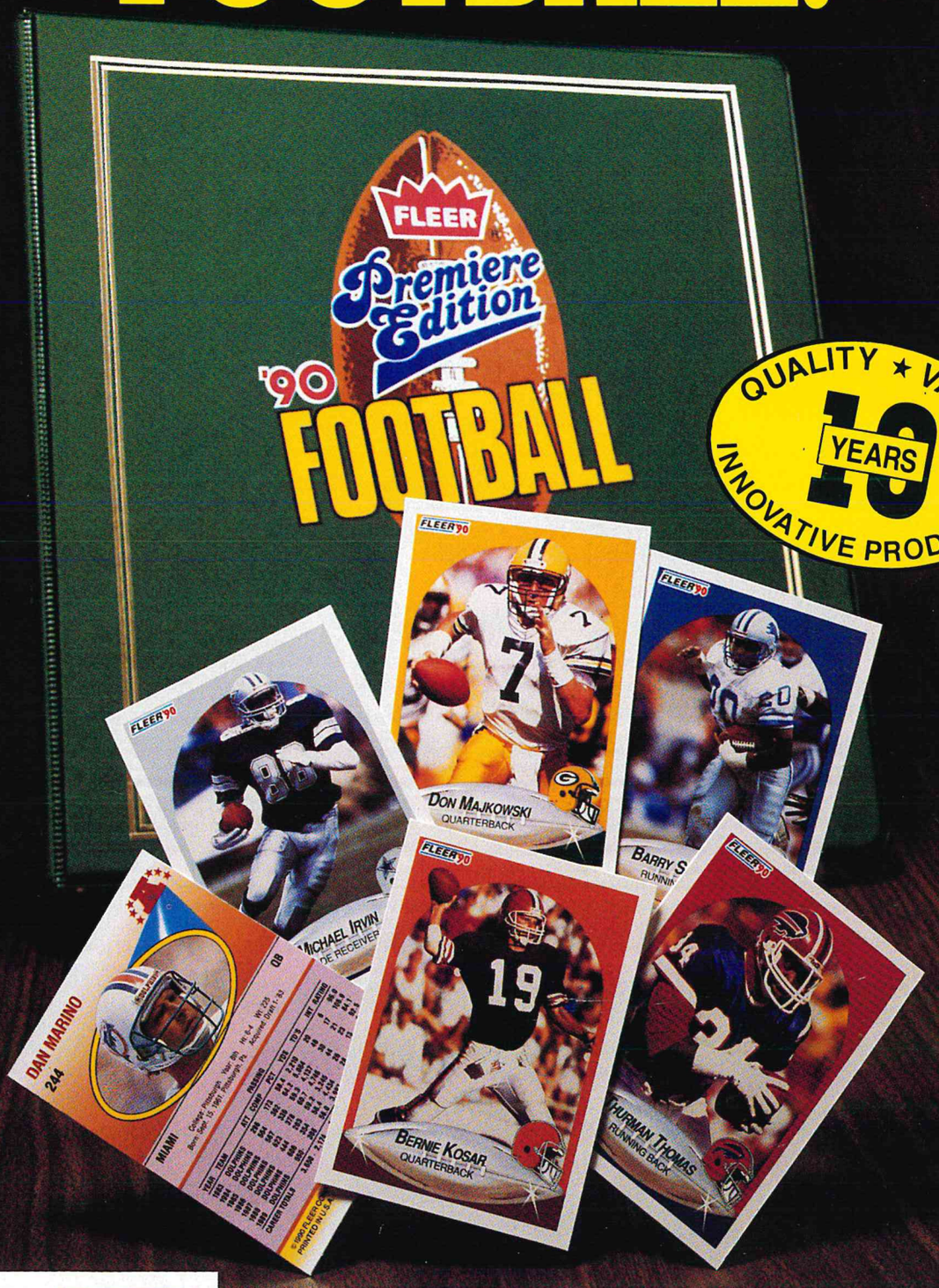

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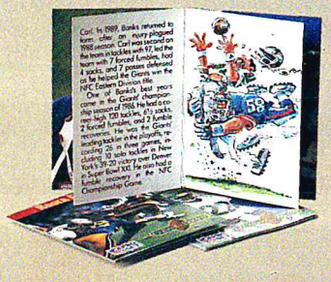

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Results and Standings

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 9	INDIANAPOLIS	26-10
Sept. 16	at Miami	7-30
Sept. 24	at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)	30-7
Sept. 30	DENVER	29-28
Oct. 7	L.A. RAIDERS	38-24
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	N.Y. JETS	30-27
Oct. 28	at New England	27-10
Nov. 4	at Cleveland	42-0
Nov. 11	PHOENIX	45-14
Nov. 18	NEW ENGLAND	14-0
Nov. 26	at Houston (Mon.)	24-27
Dec. 2	PHILADELPHIA	30-23
Dec. 9	at Indianapolis	31-7
Dec. 15	at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)	17-13
Dec. 23	MIAMI	24-14
Dec. 30	at Washington	14-29
W13 L3		428-263

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 9	N.Y. JETS	25-20
Sept. 16	at San Diego	21-16
Sept. 23	NEW ENGLAND	41-7
Oct. 1	at Seattle (Mon.)	16-31
Oct. 7	at L.A. Rams*	34-31
Oct. 14	at Houston	17-48
Oct. 22	at Cleveland (Mon.)	34-13
Oct. 28	at Atlanta	17-38
Nov. 4	NEW ORLEANS	7-21
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	PITTSBURGH	27-3
Nov. 25	INDIANAPOLIS	20-34
Dec. 2	at Pittsburgh	16-12
Dec. 9	SAN FRANCISCO*	17-20
Dec. 16	at L.A. Raiders	7-24
Dec. 23	HOUSTON	40-20
Dec. 30	CLEVELAND	21-14
W9 L7		360-352

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 9	PITTSBURGH	13-3
Sept. 16	at N.Y. Jets	21-24
Sept. 23	SAN DIEGO	14-24
Sept. 30	at Kansas City	0-34
Oct. 8	at Denver (Mon.)	30-29
Oct. 14	at New Orleans	20-25
Oct. 22	CINCINNATI (Mon.)	13-34
Oct. 28	at San Francisco	17-20
Nov. 4	BUFFALO	0-42
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	HOUSTON	23-35
Nov. 25	MIAMI	13-30
Dec. 2	L.A. RAMS	23-38
Dec. 9	at Houston	14-58
Dec. 16	ATLANTA	13-10
Dec. 23	at Pittsburgh	0-35
Dec. 30	at Cincinnati	14-21
W3 L13		228-462

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 9	at L.A. Raiders	9-14
Sept. 17	KANSAS CITY (Mon.)	24-23
Sept. 23	SEATTLE*	34-31
Sept. 30	at Buffalo	28-29
Oct. 8	CLEVELAND (Mon.)	29-30
Oct. 14	PITTSBURGH	17-34
Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	27-17
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	at Minnesota	22-27
Nov. 11	at San Diego	7-19
Nov. 18	CHICAGO*	13-16
Nov. 22	at Detroit (Thanks.)	27-40
Dec. 2	L.A. RAIDERS	20-23
Dec. 9	at Kansas City	20-31
Dec. 16	SAN DIEGO	20-10
Dec. 23	at Seattle	12-17
Dec. 30	GREEN BAY	22-13
W5 L11		331-374

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 9	at Atlanta	27-47
Sept. 16	at Pittsburgh	9-20
Sept. 23	INDIANAPOLIS	24-10
Sept. 30	at San Diego	17-7
Oct. 7	SAN FRANCISCO	21-24
Oct. 14	CINCINNATI	48-17
Oct. 21	NEW ORLEANS	23-10
Oct. 28	N.Y. JETS	12-17
Nov. 4	at L.A. Rams	13-17
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	at Cleveland	35-23
Nov. 26	BUFFALO (Mon.)	27-24
Dec. 2	at Seattle*	10-13
Dec. 9	CLEVELAND	58-14
Dec. 16	at Kansas City	27-10
Dec. 23	at Cincinnati	20-40
Dec. 30	PITTSBURGH	34-14
W9 L7		405-307

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept. 9	at Buffalo	10-26
Sept. 16	NEW ENGLAND	14-16
Sept. 23	at Houston	10-24
Sept. 30	at Philadelphia	24-23
Oct. 7	KANSAS CITY	23-19
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 21	DENVER	17-27
Oct. 28	MIAMI	7-27
Nov. 5	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	7-24
Nov. 11	at New England	13-10
Nov. 18	N.Y. JETS	17-14
Nov. 25	at Cincinnati	34-20
Dec. 2	at Phoenix	17-20
Dec. 9	BUFFALO	7-31
Dec. 16	at N.Y. Jets	29-21
Dec. 22	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	35-28
Dec. 30	at Miami	17-23
W7 L9		281-353

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 9	MINNESOTA	24-21
Sept. 17	at Denver (Mon.)	23-24
Sept. 23	at Green Bay	17-3
Sept. 30	CLEVELAND	34-0
Oct. 7	at Indianapolis	19-23
Oct. 14	DETROIT	43-24
Oct. 21	at Seattle	7-19
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	L.A. RAIDERS	9-7
Nov. 11	SEATTLE	16-17
Nov. 18	SAN DIEGO	27-10
Nov. 25	at L.A. Raiders	27-24
Dec. 2	at New England	37-7
Dec. 9	DENVER	31-20
Dec. 16	HOUSTON	10-27
Dec. 23	at San Diego	24-21
Dec. 29	at Chicago (Sat.)	21-10
W11 L5		369-257

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Sept. 9	DENVER	14-9
Sept. 16	at Seattle	17-13
Sept. 23	PITTSBURGH	20-3
Sept. 30	CHICAGO	24-10
Oct. 7	at Buffalo	24-38
Oct. 14	SEATTLE	24-17
Oct. 21	at San Diego	24-9
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	at Kansas City	7-9
Nov. 11	GREEN BAY	16-29
Nov. 19	at Miami (Mon.)	13-10
Nov. 25	KANSAS CITY	24-27
Dec. 2	at Denver	23-20
Dec. 10	at Detroit (Mon.)	38-31
Dec. 16	CINCINNATI	24-7
Dec. 22	at Minnesota (Sat.)	38-24
Dec. 30	SAN DIEGO	17-12
W12 L4		337-268

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 9	at New England	27-24
Sept. 16	BUFFALO	30-7
Sept. 23	at N.Y. Giants	3-20
Sept. 30	at Pittsburgh	28-6
Oct. 7	N.Y. JETS	20-16
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 18	NEW ENG. (Thurs.)	17-10
Oct. 28	at Indianapolis	27-7
Nov. 4	PHOENIX	23-3
Nov. 11	at N.Y. Jets	17-3
Nov. 19	L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	10-13
Nov. 25	at Cleveland	30-13
Dec. 2	at Washington	20-42
Dec. 9	PHILADELPHIA	23-20
Dec. 16	SEATTLE	24-17
Dec. 23	at Buffalo	14-24
Dec. 30	INDIANAPOLIS	23-17
W12 L4		336-242

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 9	MIAMI	24-27
Sept. 16	at Indianapolis	16-14
Sept. 23	at Cincinnati	7-41
Sept. 30	N.Y. JETS	13-37
Oct. 7	SEATTLE	20-33
Oct. 14	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 18	at Miami (Thurs.)	10-17
Oct. 28	BUFFALO	10-27
Nov. 4	at Philadelphia	20-48
Nov. 11	INDIANAPOLIS	10-13
Nov. 18	at Buffalo	0-14
Nov. 25	at Phoenix	14-34
Dec. 2	KANSAS CITY	7-37
Dec. 9	at Pittsburgh	3-24
Dec. 15	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	10-25
Dec. 23	at N.Y. Jets	7-42
Dec. 30	N.Y. GIANTS	10-13
W1 L15		181-446

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 9	at Cincinnati	20-25
Sept. 16	CLEVELAND	24-21
Sept. 24	BUFFALO (Mon.)	7-30
Sept. 30	at New England	37-13
Oct. 7	at Miami	16-20
Oct. 14	SAN DIEGO	3-39
Oct. 21	at Buffalo	27-30
Oct. 28	at Houston	17-12
Nov. 4	DALLAS	24-9
Nov. 11	MIAMI	3-17
Nov. 18	at Indianapolis	14-17
Nov. 25	PITTSBURGH	7-24
Dec. 2	at San Diego	17-38
Dec. 9	OPEN DATE	
Dec. 16	INDIANAPOLIS	21-29
Dec. 23	NEW ENGLAND	42-7
Dec. 30	at Tampa Bay	16-14
W6 L10		295-345

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 9	at Cleveland	3-13
Sept. 16	HOUSTON	20-9
Sept. 23	at L.A. Raiders	3-20
Sept. 30	MIAMI	6-28
Oct. 7	SAN DIEGO	36-14
Oct. 14	at Denver	34-17
Oct. 21	at San Francisco	7-27
Oct. 29	L.A. RAMS (Mon.)	41-10
Nov. 4	ATLANTA	21-9
Nov. 11	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 18	at Cincinnati	3-27
Nov. 25	at N.Y. Jets	24-7
Dec. 2	CINCINNATI	12-16
Dec. 9	NEW ENGLAND	24-3
Dec. 16	at New Orleans	9-6
Dec. 23	CLEVELAND	35-0
Dec. 30	at Houston	14-34
W9 L7		292-240

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 9	at Dallas	14-17
Sept. 16	CINCINNATI	16-21
Sept. 23	at Cleveland	24-14
Sept. 30	HOUSTON	7-17
Oct. 7	at Pittsburgh	14-36
Oct. 14	at N.Y. Jets	39-3
Oct. 21	L.A. RAIDERS	9-24
Oct. 28	TAMPA BAY	41-10
Nov. 4	at Seattle	31-14
Nov. 11	DENVER	19-7
Nov. 18	at Kansas City	10-27
Nov. 25	SEATTLE*	10-13
Dec. 2	N.Y. JETS	38-17
Dec. 9	OPEN DATE	
Dec. 16	at Denver	10-20
Dec. 23	KANSAS CITY	21-24
Dec. 30	at L.A. Raiders	12-17
W6 L10		315-281

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 9	at Chicago	0-17
Sept. 16	L.A. RAIDERS	13-17
Sept. 23	at Denver*	31-34
Oct. 1	CINCINNATI (Mon.)	31-16
Oct. 7	at New England	33-20
Oct. 14	at L.A. Raiders	17-24
Oct. 21	KANSAS CITY	19-7
Oct. 28	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 4	SAN DIEGO	14-31
Nov. 11	at Kansas City	17-16
Nov. 18	MINNESOTA	21-24
Nov. 25	at San Diego*	13-10
Dec. 2	HOUSTON*	13-10
Dec. 9	vs. Green Bay at Milw.	20-14
Dec. 16	at Miami	17-24
Dec. 23	DENVER	17-12
Dec. 30	DETROIT	30-10
W9 L7		306-286

1990 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	13	3	0	.813	428	263
Miami	12	4	0	.750	336	242
Indianapolis	7	9	0	.438	281	353
N.Y. Jets	6	10	0	.375	295	345
New England	1	15	0	.063	181	446
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Cincinnati	9	7	0	.563	360	352
Houston	9	7	0	.563	405	307
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	292	240
Cleveland	3	13	0	.188	228	462
Western Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
L.A. Raiders	12	4	0	.750	337	268
Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	369	257
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	306	286
San Diego	6	10	0	.375	315	281
Denver	5	11	0	.313	331	374

*Overtime

Results and Standings

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 9	HOUSTON	47-27
Sept. 16	at Detroit	14-21
Sept. 23	at San Francisco	13-19
Sept. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	NEW ORLEANS	28-27
Oct. 14	SAN FRANCISCO	35-45
Oct. 21	at L.A. Rams	24-44
Oct. 28	CINCINNATI	38-17
Nov. 4	at Pittsburgh	9-21
Nov. 11	at Chicago	24-30
Nov. 18	PHILADELPHIA	23-24
Nov. 25	at New Orleans	7-10
Dec. 2	at Tampa Bay	17-23
Dec. 9	PHOENIX	13-24
Dec. 16	at Cleveland	10-13
Dec. 23	L.A. RAMS	20-13
Dec. 30	DALLAS	26-7
W5 L11		348-365

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 9	SEATTLE	17-0
Sept. 16	at Green Bay	31-13
Sept. 23	MINNESOTA	19-16
Sept. 30	at L.A. Raiders	10-24
Oct. 7	GREEN BAY	27-13
Oct. 14	L.A. RAMS	38-9
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	at Phoenix	31-21
Nov. 4	at Tampa Bay	26-6
Nov. 11	ATLANTA	30-24
Nov. 18	at Denver*	16-13
Nov. 25	at Minnesota	13-41
Dec. 2	DETROIT*	23-17
Dec. 9	at Washington	9-10
Dec. 16	at Detroit	21-38
Dec. 23	TAMPA BAY	27-14
Dec. 29	KANSAS CITY (Sat.)	10-21
W11 L5		348-280

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 9	SAN DIEGO	17-14
Sept. 16	N.Y. GIANTS	7-28
Sept. 23	at Washington	15-19
Sept. 30	at N.Y. Giants	17-31
Oct. 7	TAMPA BAY	14-10
Oct. 14	at Phoenix	3-20
Oct. 21	at Tampa Bay	17-13
Oct. 28	PHILADELPHIA	20-21
Nov. 4	at N.Y. Jets	9-24
Nov. 11	SAN FRANCISCO	6-24
Nov. 18	at L.A. Rams	24-21
Nov. 22	WASHINGTON (Thanks.)	27-17
Dec. 2	NEW ORLEANS	17-13
Dec. 9	OPEN DATE	
Dec. 16	PHOENIX	41-10
Dec. 23	at Philadelphia	3-17
Dec. 30	at Atlanta	7-26
W7 L9		244-308

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 9	TAMPA BAY	21-38
Sept. 16	ATLANTA	21-14
Sept. 23	at Tampa Bay	20-23
Sept. 30	GREEN BAY	21-24
Oct. 7	at Minnesota	34-27
Oct. 14	at Kansas City	24-43
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	at New Orleans	27-10
Nov. 4	WASHINGTON*	38-41
Nov. 11	MINNESOTA	7-17
Nov. 18	at N.Y. Giants	0-20
Nov. 22	DENVER (Thanks.)	40-27
Dec. 2	at Chicago*	17-23
Dec. 10	L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	31-38
Dec. 16	CHICAGO	38-21
Dec. 22	at Green Bay (Sat.)	24-17
Dec. 30	at Seattle	10-30
W6 L10		373-413

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 9	L.A. RAMS	36-24
Sept. 16	CHICAGO	13-31
Sept. 23	KANSAS CITY	3-17
Sept. 30	at Detroit	24-21
Oct. 7	at Chicago	13-27
Oct. 14	at Tampa Bay	14-26
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	MINNESOTA at Milw.	24-10
Nov. 4	SAN FRANCISCO	20-24
Nov. 11	at L.A. Raiders	29-16
Nov. 18	at Phoenix	24-21
Nov. 25	TAMPA BAY at Milw.	20-10
Dec. 2	at Minnesota	7-23
Dec. 9	SEATTLE at Milwaukee	14-20
Dec. 16	at Philadelphia	0-31
Dec. 22	DETROIT (Sat.)	17-24
Dec. 30	at Denver	13-22
W6 L10		271-347

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 9	at Green Bay	24-36
Sept. 16	at Tampa Bay	35-14
Sept. 23	PHILADELPHIA	21-27
Sept. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	CINCINNATI*	31-34
Oct. 14	at Chicago	9-38
Oct. 21	ATLANTA	44-24
Oct. 29	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	10-41
Nov. 4	HOUSTON	17-13
Nov. 11	N.Y. GIANTS	7-31
Nov. 18	DALLAS	21-24
Nov. 25	at San Francisco	28-17
Dec. 2	at Cleveland	38-23
Dec. 9	NEW ORLEANS	20-24
Dec. 17	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	10-26
Dec. 23	at Atlanta	13-20
Dec. 31	at New Orleans (Mon.)	17-20
W5 L11		345-412

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 9	at Kansas City	21-24
Sept. 16	NEW ORLEANS	32-3
Sept. 23	at Chicago	16-19
Sept. 30	TAMPA BAY*	20-23
Oct. 7	DETROIT	27-34
Oct. 15	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	24-32
Oct. 21	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 28	Green Bay at Milwaukee	10-24
Nov. 4	DENVER	27-22
Nov. 11	at Detroit	17-7
Nov. 18	at Seattle	24-21
Nov. 25	CHICAGO	41-13
Dec. 2	GREEN BAY	23-7
Dec. 9	at N.Y. Giants	15-23
Dec. 16	at Tampa Bay	13-26
Dec. 22	L.A. RAIDERS (Sat.)	24-28
Dec. 30	SAN FRANCISCO	17-20
W6 L10		351-326

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 10	SAN FRAN. (Mon.)	12-13
Sept. 16	at Minnesota	3-32
Sept. 23	PHOENIX	28-7
Sept. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	at Atlanta	27-28
Oct. 14	CLEVELAND	25-20
Oct. 21	at Houston	10-23
Oct. 28	DETROIT	10-27
Nov. 4	at Cincinnati	21-7
Nov. 11	TAMPA BAY	35-7
Nov. 18	at Washington	17-31
Nov. 25	ATLANTA	10-7
Dec. 2	at Dallas	13-17
Dec. 9	at L.A. Rams	24-20
Dec. 16	PITTSBURGH	6-9
Dec. 23	at San Francisco	13-10
Dec. 31	L.A. RAMS (Mon.)	20-17
W8 L8		274-275

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 9	PHILADELPHIA	27-20
Sept. 16	at Dallas	28-7
Sept. 23	MIAMI	20-3
Sept. 30	DALLAS	31-17
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at Washington	24-20
Oct. 21	PHOENIX	20-19
Oct. 28	WASHINGTON	21-10
Nov. 5	at Indianapolis (Mon.)	24-7
Nov. 11	at L.A. Rams	31-7
Nov. 18	DETROIT	20-0
Nov. 25	at Philadelphia	13-31
Dec. 3	at San Francisco (Mon.)	3-7
Dec. 9	MINNESOTA	23-15
Dec. 15	BUFFALO (Sat.)	13-17
Dec. 23	at Phoenix	24-21
Dec. 30	at New England	13-10
W13 L3		335-211

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 9	at N.Y. Giants	20-27
Sept. 16	PHOENIX	21-23
Sept. 23	at L.A. Rams	27-21
Sept. 30	INDIANAPOLIS	23-24
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 15	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	32-24
Oct. 21	at Washington	7-13
Oct. 28	at Dallas	21-20
Nov. 4	NEW ENGLAND	48-20
Nov. 12	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	28-14
Nov. 18	at Atlanta	24-23
Nov. 25	N.Y. GIANTS	31-13
Dec. 2	at Buffalo	23-20
Dec. 9	at Miami*	20-23
Dec. 16	GREEN BAY	31-0
Dec. 23	DALLAS	17-3
Dec. 29	at Phoenix (Sat.)	23-21
W10 L6		396-299

PHOENIX CARDINALS

Sept. 9	at Washington	0-31
Sept. 16	at Philadelphia	23-21
Sept. 23	at New Orleans	7-28
Sept. 30	WASHINGTON	10-38
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	DALLAS	20-3
Oct. 21	at N.Y. Giants	19-20
Oct. 28	CHICAGO	21-31
Nov. 4	at Miami	3-23
Nov. 11	at Buffalo	14-45
Nov. 18	GREEN BAY	21-24
Nov. 25	NEW ENGLAND	34-14
Dec. 2	INDIANAPOLIS	20-17
Dec. 9	at Atlanta	24-13
Dec. 16	at Dallas	10-41
Dec. 23	N.Y. GIANTS	21-24
Dec. 29	PHILADELPHIA (Sat.)	21-23
W5 L11		268-396

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 10	at New Orleans (Mon.)	13-12
Sept. 16	WASHINGTON	26-13
Sept. 23	ATLANTA	19-13
Sept. 30	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 7	at Houston	24-21
Oct. 14	at Atlanta	45-35
Oct. 21	PITTSBURGH	27-7
Oct. 28	CLEVELAND	20-17
Nov. 4	at Green Bay	24-20
Nov. 11	at Dallas	24-6
Nov. 18	TAMPA BAY	31-7
Nov. 25	L.A. RAMS	17-28
Dec. 3	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	7-3
Dec. 9	at Cincinnati*	20-17
Dec. 17	at L.A. Rams (Mon.)	26-10
Dec. 23	NEW ORLEANS	10-13
Dec. 30	at Minnesota	20-17
W14 L2		353-239

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 9	at Detroit	38-21
Sept. 16	L.A. RAMS	14-35
Sept. 23	DETROIT	23-20
Sept. 30	at Minnesota*	23-20
Oct. 7	at Dallas	10-14
Oct. 14	GREEN BAY	26-14
Oct. 21	DALLAS	13-17
Oct. 28	at San Diego	10-41
Nov. 4	CHICAGO	6-26
Nov. 11	at New Orleans	7-35
Nov. 18	at San Francisco	7-31
Nov. 25	vs. Green Bay at Milw.	10-20
Dec. 2	ATLANTA	23-17
Dec. 9	OPEN DATE	
Dec. 16	MINNESOTA	26-13
Dec. 23	at Chicago	14-27
Dec. 30	N.Y. JETS	14-16
W6 L10		264-367

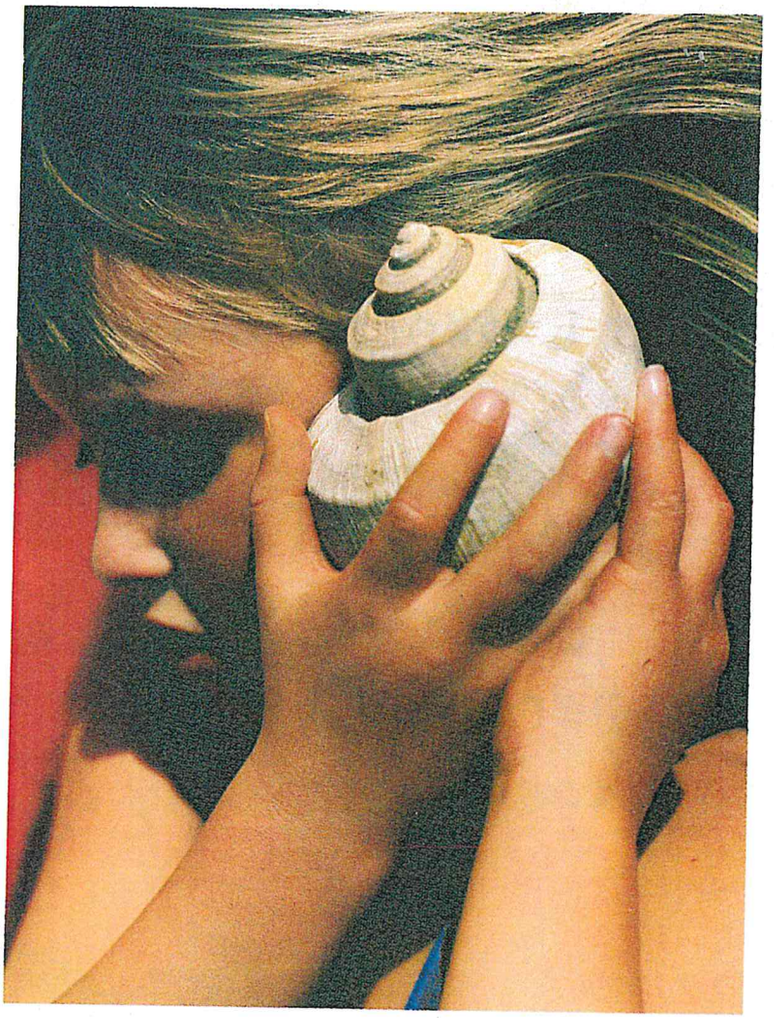
WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 9	PHOENIX	31-0
Sept. 16	at San Francisco	13-26
Sept. 23	DALLAS	19-15
Sept. 30	at Phoenix	38-10
Oct. 7	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	N.Y. GIANTS	20-24
Oct. 21	PHILADELPHIA	13-7
Oct. 28	at N.Y. Giants	10-21
Nov. 4	at Detroit*	41-38
Nov. 12	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	14-28
Nov. 18	NEW ORLEANS	31-17
Nov. 22	at Dallas (Thanks.)	17-27
Dec. 2	MIAMI	42-20
Dec. 9	CHICAGO	10-9
Dec. 15	at New England (Sat.)	25-10
Dec. 22	at Indianapolis (Sat.)	28-35
Dec. 30	BUFFALO	29-14
W10 L6		381-301

1990 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
N.Y. Giants	13	3	0	.813	335	211
Philadelphia	10	6	0	.625	396	299
Washington	10	6	0	625	381	301
Dallas	7	9	0	.438	244	308
Phoenix	5	11	0	.313	268	396
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Chicago	11	5	0	.688	348	280
Tampa Bay	6	10	0	.375	264	367
Detroit	6	10	0	.375	373	413
Green Bay	6	10	0	.375	271	347
Minnesota	6	10	0	.375	351	326
Western Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
San Francisco	14	2	0	.875	353	239
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	274	275
L.A. Rams	5	11	0	.313	345	412
Atlanta	5	11	0	.313	348	365

*Overtime



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Final Score Of This Game:

New York Giants 20

Buffalo Bills 19

(Game played on January 27, 1991)